FBIS DAILY REPORT

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JAROSLAVSKY RULES OUT AMNESTY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS

PY262357 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Apr 87 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Lower House Majority leader Cesar Jaroslavsky (Radical-Entre Rios) yesterday said new Army Chief-of-Staff Jose Caridi "is reaffirming authority" in the force and stressed that President Raul Alfonsin "will not sign an amnesty" while the governing party "will not motion for one."

Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli meanwhile said that the Supreme Court "is empowered to issue an immediate ruling on the principle of due obedience" which he considered "convenient so that Argentina can reach a satisfactory solution" to the trials of military officers involved in human rights crimes.

The minister said that the possible suspension of human rights trials for 180 days "is the exclusive competence of the judicial branch" and is not "a government decision."

On the recent military crisis, Troccoli said that "it was the most brilliant cutcome in all of Argentine history, since there has never been, in quantity or quality, such a strong popular reaction in defence of the institutions."

On the other hand, Neuquen Bishop Jaime Francisco de Nevares warned on the possibility that the government had "surrendered" its defense of human rights issues, without which, he said, "the constitutional system cannot be upheld."

The second vice-president of the Democratic Concentration, Juan Carlos Lynch, yesterday told civilian leaders in Mendoza that "an amnesty must be ruled quickly and courageously to ensure that the recent insurrection at Campo de Mayo military base is not repeated."

The conservative leader held that the democracy reaffirmation agreement signed by numerous unionists and politicians "must become the basic document of the amnesty which must be ruled."

"We must be very careful in how we handle the military problem, because we Argentines have turned very sensitive regarding the issue due to a campaign carried out systematically in the last three years," he said.

The Peronist, Intransigent, Christian Democrat and Argentine Socialist Youth meanwhile declared themselves against an amnesty law for accused officers, as well as against "a ruling on due obedience which will let the crimes committed in the last dictatorship go unpunished."

The communique issued by the four groupings said that "so that democracy is not negotiated we request the government to inform the people who rallied for democracy, giving an honest and clear account of the situation within the Armed Forces."

The Centro de Estudios para la Nueva Mayoria [Center of Studies for the New Majority] -- led by Corrientes Governor Jose Romero Feris -- exhorted Argentine politicians to analyze the amnesty draft laws presented by several legislators.

Presidential advisor Jaime Malamud considered yesterday that the controversial due obedience ruling requires the unification of prosecutors' criteria, and minimized the importance of the Supreme Court pronouncement on the issue.

ARMY DENIES MILITARY SCHOOL UNREST DURING UPRISING

PY241354 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2241 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (NA) -- The Army today denied that there was any unrest among the cadets of the Military School during the recent military uprisings. On the contrary, "they observed the chain of command as usual." The Army command has released a communique stating the following:

1. No action has taken place in the mentioned school which goes against the principles of military discipline.

2. The personnel have obeyed the chain of command as ususal during the recent events, which are public knowledge.

SPOKESMAN ADMITS 'MISTAKES' IN CRISIS COVERAGE

PY262347 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Apr 87 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez yesterday said in a letter to the ADEPA newspaper owners association that during the recent military crisis "all of us who are linked in one way or another to the task of reporting news could have made mistakes" in the coverage of the events, but stressed the "shared will to defend the basic principles of democratic co-existence."

ADEPA, in turn, said in a communique yesterday that during the crisis, "the media carried out a praise worthy coverage of the news in defence of republican insitutions, playing an important role in the motivation of the citizenry."

ADEPA Expressed surprise at recent statements by public officials criticizing that coverage. "They want to submit the media's action to points of view which are incompatible with freedom of the press," said the entity.

LA NACION daily considered this issue in its editorial yesterday. It concluded that "the state-owned media did not cover the military crisis with the objectivity and consideration that the circumstances required."

Public Health and Social Action Minister Conrado Storani added his voice to the controversy yesterday by saying that the attitude taken by some media had been "an attack against institutional stability." He specified that this attitude had consisted on broadcasting the rebels' statements. Movements for Development and Integration (MID) President Rogelio Rigerio, on the other hand, objected the "restrictions imposed upon the media."

After stressing that "Argentine society as a whole is definitely attached to democratic institutions," he said that the "restrictions" had kept "the people from having an exact notion" of what was going on. He underlined that "the people were informed of what was happening only when President (Raul) Alfonsin came back from Campo de Mayo (military base) and reported that the rebels' demands were strictly military in nature."

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY STOPS OIL WORKERS CONVENTION

PY271403 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 26 Apr (AFP) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo, the executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB), today reported that the Bolivian Government has dissolved the convention which the Bolivian oil workers were holding in the town of Bermejo, located in the southern part of the country, in the midst of the protests of oil worker leaders.

He added that the action is illegal and that it demonstrates the authoritarianism used by the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro, which has fascist leanings, to prevent the organization and progress of Bolivian workers.

Lechin made these remarks in the city of Tarija, where the oil workers convention was resumed. The oil workers have warned that if their convention is interrupted again they will start a general and indefinite strike throughout the country.

Factionalism Erupts Among Workers

PY271612 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpts] One of the leaders of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Oil Workers, named Garcia [not further identified] has said that the oil workers of several districts throughout the country are surprised because [COB Executive Secretary] Juan Lechin Oquendo is contributing to the division of the oil workers.

He made this statement in relation to the alleged convention held by the oil workers without the presence of the most important unions, such as the ones from Camiri and Santa Cruz. That is to say, the majority of the union leaders were absent from the convention which was called by dissidents of the national federation.

It has been explained, however, that the unions of Camiri and other cities requested the postponement of the convention because of organizational matters and the fact that the COB is planning a national mobilization.

Garcia added that the convention was postponed for very good reasons and to maintain unity of the federation. He said that this situation was taken advantage of by people interested in creating conflict and confusion and this is when Lechin appeared. [passage omitted]

Garcia criticized Lechin who, instead of acting for unity, has contributed to the disorganization of an important labor sector. He added that this action has political connotations now that Lechin has left union activity to concentrate on politics. [passage omitted]

Juan Lechin Oquendo said, however, that the government is making every effort to prevent the leaders of the oil workers federation of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement from leaving the leadership of the federation.

Radio Panamericana was able to learn in a direct communication with Tarija the details of the incidents that occurred in Bermejo during the oil workers convention, which was interrupted by agents of the Interior Ministry.

Lechin said that, despite the intervention, the convention was held and a new executive committee was named replacing the progovernment committee. He added that the COB supports the new executive committee because it was elected at a convention and it will give greater representativity.

LABOR LEADERS SAY GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO DESTROY COB

PY271453 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2213 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 26 Par (EFE) -- Leaders of the COB have reported here that the government intends to destroy the labor trade union organization which represents all sectors of wage-earners in the country.

Jose Maria Palacios, leader of the COB's Organization Commission, has stated that the executive branch is authoritarian and is attempting to achieve "the total destruction of the trade union and people's organizations by all possible means."

COB Press Secretary Gonzalo Viscarra has also stated that government authorities seek the total destruction of the labor movement "to implement their nefarious plans against the people." Viscarra added, however, that "the workers will never give up their indomitable struggle to break the chains of imperial oppression."

Palacios added that these government efforts must be fought by all union organizations and political parties considered "progressive," by joining their opposition forces.

The COB intends to stage a national day of protest on 1 May "against the government which is responsible for the starvation of the people, and against imperialist meddling."

COB REPORTS DEATH OF LEADER AT DEMONSTRATION

PY231440 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The COB has reported that (Marcelino Tinaicobo), leader of the Single Federation of Rubber-Tappers and Chestnut Harvesters has been killed in Riberalta. According to COB Secretary General Walter Delgadillo, (Tinaicobo) was killed yesterday afternoon during a demonstration being held by workers as part of the 24-hour strike.

Delgadillo said that the COB pays homage to the memory of (Marcelino Tinaicobo) and calls upon the Interior Ministry and court officials to investigate the case and implement due punishment to those found guilty. He added that at its meeting today, the COB will decide other measures, including declaring a day of national mourning and ceremonies to pay homage to the memory of the deceased labor leader.

PMDB DISCUSSES CANDIDATES TO REPLACE FUNARO

PY271410 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Constituent Assembly, met yesterday in Brasilia with the ministers from the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party]. The new finance minister must not only be from the PMDB, but also follow the economic policy of former Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, who tendered his resignation yesterday. This decision was made by the PMDB leaders at a lunch in the residence of Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer in Brasilia. The lunch was attended by Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, Social Security Minister Rafael da Almeida Magalhaes, Navy Minister Admiral Henrique Saboia, Deputy Luiz Henrique, Deputy Cid Carvalho.

During the lunch, the PMDB respresentatives discussed a possible candidate to suggest to President Jose Sarney as replacement for Minister Funaro. Minister Rafael Magalhaes mentioned the names of three candidates who may be approved by the party: Deputy Jose Serra: former Minister Celso Furtado; and Sao Paulo economist Breser Perera.

Minister Renato Archer was not surprised at the resignation of Minister Dilson Funaro and praised his former Cabinet colleague. According to Minister Rafael Magalhaes, the name of the new finance minister should be announced either tomorrow or the next day.

MINISTER FUNARO TO STAY UNTIL REPLACEMENT CHOSEN

PY271751 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo in Portuguese 1600 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Finance Minister Dilson Funaro retired at 0300 this morning in house 12 of block 17 in the Peninsula of the Ministers in Brasilia, asking that he be awakened after 1000. At 1100 this morning, former Mininster Funaro left the house and gave his first news conference of the day.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Do you believe the departure of a finance minister in some way destabilizes the country?

[Funaro] I hope not. Brazil is now engaged in important negotiations over its foreign debt. They are on course, although discussions with governments and banks are still going on. We have a mission from the World Bank in Brazil at this time. The departure of a minister should not disturb the negotiation process. On the contrary, we must support the new minister and let him continue what he considers correct and let him change what he feels is wrong.

[Reporter] Do you know if President Sarney has already thought who will take your place?

[Funaro] No. That's a decision the president must make and announce to the nation.

[Reporter] What are your immediate plans, Mr Minister?

[Funaro] I will probably participate in discussions on national problems.

[Reporter] Will this be a form of collaborating with Congress, the Constituent Assembly?

[Funaro] Wherever I am invited, I will go to talk about Brazil's problems. [end recording]

From his house, outgoing Minister Funaro went to the Finance Ministry, according to him, to bid goodbye to his closest associates, but he will not immediately leave the post. At the request of President Sarney, Funaro will remain as finance minister until his replacement is chosen.

The president spent the morning considering candidates for the posts of civilian Cabinet chief and finance minister. So far, no choices have been made.

Report Successor Chosen

PY272051 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2019 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Apr (EFE) -- Tasso Riveiro Jereissati, a 37-year-old businessman who is the current governor of Ceara State, will be appointed the new Brazilian finance minister, one of his advisers confirmed today to EFE. Riveiro Jereissati will replace outgoing Minister Dilson Funaro. According to the adviser, President Sarney today offered the post to Riverio Jereissati, who this afternoon accepted the offer.

Report Denied

PY272329 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Relay from Planalto Palace by reporter Eduardo Mancay]

[Text] The president has not yet chosen the new civilian household chief and finance minister to replace Marco Maciel and Dilson Funaro, respectively. This afternoon, President Sarney worked as usual with Civilian Household chief Marco Maciel.

Ceara Governor Tasso Jereissati, of the PMDB, who had an appointment with the president today, asked him to postpone the meeting until another day. This news was reported a short time ago by Presidential Press Secretary Frota Netto.

[Begin Netto recording] Minister Funaro presented his official resignation this weekend, less than 24 hours ago.

Regarding the Civilian Household Ministry, Minister Marco Maciel will remain in his post pending President Sarney's decision on his replacement. He is giving the president time to discuss a successor with the Democratic Alliance. [end recording]

Frota Netto also reported that, regardless of who is chosen to replace Minister Funaro, the government's basic economic guidelines will remain unchanged. In foreign matters, this means that foreign debt negotiations will be carried out several times a year [plurianual], and in the domestic aspect, the price adjustment policy will continue, but without causing recession.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF POST-ALLENDE MASS EXECUTION

PY271922 Paris AFP in Spanish 1545 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 27 Apr (AFP) -- Chilean officer Armando Fernandez Larios, who is being prosecuted in the United States, played an important role in the execution of 26 people in the city of Calama following the downfall of President Salvador Allende 13 years ago, a former Army officer, interviewed by APSI magazine of Santiago, has affirmed.

Fernandez Larios sought shelter in the United States in February and confessed to a U.S. federal judge his participation in the murder of exiled opposition leader Orlando Letelier and his U.S. secretary Ronni Moffit in Washington in 1976.

Denying charges made by relatives of the 26 victims of Calama, Fernandez Larios' U.S. defense lawyer Axel Kleinboemer said last Friday that his client did not participate in the massacre, but was just a member of the group headed by General Sergio Arellano who apparently ordered the killing of the 26 victims and the execution of the other 46.

According to the account published by APSI and based on statements by a former Army officer who at the time was stationed at the Calama regiment, Fernandez Larios was in the group who took the 26 prisoners to the site where they were executed.

The executions took place on 19 October 1973, at about 1800 in the afternoon, in a place called Topater near Calama, said the APSI interviewee, who asked to remain anonymous to protect his life.

The former Army officer said that some prisoners, among them a woman and a 16-year-old student, were treated sadistically. Then, he recalled that some of the prisoners were killed slowly. Some of those present got sick at the sight. It was terrible. The victims were shot in their legs first, then the guns were pointed higher, but not at their heart...they were killed slowly. Some of them were slashed with knives.

Armando Fernandez Larios who was in the group (and was later assigned to the secret police created by President Augusto Pinochet) was particularly harsh, the former Navy officer told APSI.

The unidentified former Army officer recalled that in the group of those killed and whose bodies were not turned over to their relatives were those of journalist Carlos Berger and driver Carlos Pinero. A few days later, after they were executed, a resolution exonorating them was dictated.

According to relatives of the victims, the orders for their execution were given by Gen Arellano Stark, who was in charge of the prisoners' trial after the coup that toppled socialist President Salvador Allende.

Gen Arellano Stark, who was the commander of the Santiago military garrison, was vested with special powers by General Augusto Pinochet. This was revealed years later by the former chief of the 1st Army Division, General Joaquin Lagos.

CARABINEROS DIRECTOR SAYS FREEDOM OF PRESS EXISTS

PY231935 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] General Rodolfo Stange, director of the Carabineros force, has said that there is full freedom of press in Chile. Stange made this statement after dedicating the 38th women's defense police station on 100 Bergara Street.

General Stange said there is full freedom of press and expression and proof of this is that underground politicians and groups are constantly holding meetings, which later receive press coverage.

[Begin Stange recording] What more freedom of expression is there? Anyone here can voice his opinion and have it published. I think that this fact allows us to say that we are a mature country and that we enjoy freedom of press. [end recording]

Stange added that he fully agrees with the church's firm actions to bring about the conciliation of all Chilean citizens.

[Begin Stange recording] I fully agree, and I am sure that all Chilean citizens agree, that the family must unite. Therefore, the visit of his holiness the pope has been marvelous in this regard. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Comments on Politics, Communism

PY280040 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Chilean Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange has said that it is absurd to think that peace and harmony can be achieved through political accords.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the Carabineros police force, Stange stated that dialogue requires good faith by interlocutors, and he denied that talks can be held with the Marxist-Leninist communists.

[Begin Stange recording] Political talks require good faith by interlocutors and a common basis, that is, mutual respect and the sincere desire to achieve an agreement that precludes violence.

It is quite clear that it is impossible and useless to talk with the Marxist-Leninist communists, because one must not forget that violence plays a key role in communist doctrine. For example, in a manifesto, the Chilean communists openly expressed that their goals can only be achieved by using violence against the existing social order. Moreover, Lenin, in his book "State and Revolution," wrote that it is impossible to replace a bourgeois state with a proletarian state without a violent revolution. These principles have not changed.

As shown by statements made by its leaders, the communist party has publicly chosen to use violent methods in Chile.

Terrorism, massive arms caches, their armed branches...[end recording in progress] [passage omitted]

ARRESTED DRUG TRAFFICKER EXTRADITION DENIED

PA201523 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Bogota -- Drug trafficker Leonidas Vargas Vargas will not be extradited to the United States because the U.S. authorities have not made a firm request to that effect and the documents backing the extradition request were burned during the November 1985 guerrilla occupation of the Justice Palace.

Vargas Vargas, who is wanted by the Southern District Court in Miami, Florida has been charged in the United States with conspiracy to distribute cocaine, distributing cocaine, and illegal importation of restricted substances.

SECURITY POLICE FORMED TO PROTECT JUDGES

PA271449 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Apr 87, pp 1A, 3A

[Text] The government has ordered the creation of a special security force to protect magistrates, judges, and judicial branch officials.

The organization will be made up of policemen and will operate throughout the country.

This special squadron was created by executive order.

The government is seeking to give the judicial branch the utmost security guarantees, especially those individuals entrusted with the administration of justice.

A police source explained that policemen assigned to this unit will have as their sole responsibility the protection and security of magistrates and judges.

The command will start operating within the next few days in the Supreme Court.

This group of policemen will support the currently existing escort squadrons for magistrates and will protect judges who might feel threatened because of the nature of the trials they are conducting.

It will also serve to reinforce the vigilance at the Judicial District Superior Courts, the Supreme Court, penal courts, and criminal courts.

Justice Minister Dr Eduardo Suescun Monroy said the General Directorate of Police is in charge of bringing this group together. Several policemen who were already serving in this capacity in judicial courts will participate.

On a national level, Colonel Rodrigo Millan will be the commander of this unit. Major Enrique Gutierrez will be the commander in Bogota.

Suescun Monroy explained this is the definitive consolidation of an organization which was already beginning to form and which had been offering security to the judicial branch.

There are 3,900 judicial offices in Colombia. The special organization will begin by giving protection to the magistrates of the Superior District Courts.

WRAP UP OF GOVERNMENT, REBEL CASUALTIES SINCE 1 JAN

PA261915 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Apr 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] It was reported yesterday that the wave of violence shaking Colombia has resulted in the deaths of 313 citizens so far this year. This figure includes soldiers, policemen, peasants, Patriotic Unity [UP] leaders, and guerrillas.

Sources from the security agencies have revealed that 54 policemen, and 30 soldiers, both officers and noncommissioned officers, lost their lives since 1 January.

According to statistics from the same agencies, during the same period 81 peasants and 28 members of the UP -- a political movement that emerged following the signing of the peace accords by the FARC and the national government in 1984 -- lost their lives. In all, 120 guerrillas of various rebel groups have been killed in clashes with the Armed Forces and while seizing small towns this year. Official statistics also indicate that 38 soldiers and 40 members of the police have been wounded during guerrilla ambushes and attacks.

In regard to the high number of peasants killed, the security agencies said that most of the peasants were murdered by the various guerrilla movements that operate in rural areas, after the peasants were accused of supplying information to the Armed Forces. In addition, the farm workers have also been accused by the so-called death squads of assisting leftist guerrillas. Some peasants have been killed by common criminals during raids on small farms, security agencies added.

It has been reported that the number of guerrillas captured include members of the FARC; the leftist M-19; the Castroite National Liberation Army, ELN; the Popular Liberation Army, EPL; the Ricardo Franco Front, and the pro-Indian Quintin Lame front.

The security agencies have also pointed out that since 1 January, 10 terrorist attacks have been perpetrated against private and state warehouses; 2 against planes and helicopters; 18 against buses; 4 in streets and squares; 11 against government and private offices; and 13 against government agencies. In addition, 9 dynamite attacks against oil pipelines, 1 against a bridge, 2 in universities, and 12 against homes have taken place.

In the past few weeks, the subversives' activities have been concentrated in the departments of Antioquia, Santander, Norte de Santander, and the intendances of Arauca and Putumayo. Some rebel columns have also been active in Casanare intendance, but no clashes have occurred.

Security agencies have also reported that rebel activities have decreased considerably in Tolima, Huila, Cauca, and Valle del Cauca Departments.

CANDIDATE CLAIMS 'INTIMIDATION' IN TEAR GAS ATTACK

PA262006 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0535 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Quito, 25 Apr (EFE) -- It was reported today that approximately 50 people sustained injuries of varying degrees of seriousness during a tear gas attack against presidential candidate Rodrigo Borja, vice president of the Socialist International, that took place at Guayaquil's international airport. Borja arrived on Friday in Guayaquil, 400 km southeast of this capital, where he was met by his fellow party members, who had been waiting since early morning in the airport's passenger terminal.

Amid shouts of support from his fellow party members, Borja was surrounded by unidentified people, who hurled tear gas bombs in the terminal, causing panic and dismay, while several people broke large window panes to allow the gas to escape. According to the daily ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, the Social Democratic leader, who opposes the current administration, directly blamed "government agents" for the attack staged against him at the Simon Bolivar Airport. Press reports said that approximately 50 people were injured.

The leader of the Democratic Left Party, defeated 3 years ago by current conservative President Leon Febres Cordero, said that "government agents are trying to intimidate him with actions of this nature."

The newspaper added that the incidents did not end at the airport, because the motorcade organized from there to downtown Quito, with Borja in the lead, "was also attacked by unidentified individuals dressed in civilian clothes."

CENTER LEFT ATTEMPTING TO UNITE FOR ELECTION

PA271552 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] The attempts to unify the center left in time for the 1988 elections continue. The Democratic Left, Popular Democracy, and Roldosist parties, aside from other minor groups, are taking part in this effort. Within this framework, the resolutions reached at the Popular Democratic Party's Fifth Congress, which closed Saturday in Manta, entrusted the party's National Executive Council with the task of determining the willingness of the center left tendencies to form a united front.

The political document emphasized that if such an alliance were not feasible, the Popular Democracy would go to the 1988 elections with its own candidates. Moreover, it reiterated total support for the democratic system and will oppose any attempt to prevent the elections from taking place -- as the government tried in 1986. It added that the adversary to be reckoned with in the upcoming elections of the Popular Democracy will be the official national Reconstruction Front and its candidates. Moreover, it urged the party's National Executive Council to bring its political platform up to date. These points were agreed upon in view of the fact that the economic and political right, currently in power, and the so-called reconstruction government, have shown how insensitive they are to the country's problems. The poverty of the popular sectors has increased, authoritarianism has grown, violence has been generated, and the most dastardly assaults have been perpetrated on public funds. The Armed Forces have been politicized, the oligarchy has been granted privileges, the democratic system has degenerated, the Constitution and the law have been violated, the state's other functions have been attacked, and national sovereignty has been subjected to the will of a foreign nation [not further identified]

COMMENTATOR RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. POLICY

PY272020 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Apr 87 p 14

[Cristian Nielsen commentary: "Pledge and Commitment"]

[Text] The seminar on integration and democracy held last week brought to the fore (perhaps not for the first time) issues like the relations between the United States and Latin America, trade, protectionism, and Washington's announced commitment to the democratization of the region.

During an interview, Mrs Sally Shelton Colby, former assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, outlined the trend toward democratization prevailing in her country. "At least one major seminar on Latin America is held in Washington every week. I believe there is real interest in the issue, and I am sorry that the consolidation of such a trend has taken so long," she said.

This is an interesting shift. Unfortunately, we Latin Americans have contracted a disease that is very difficult to cure: We do not trust the United States. Or at least, we do not unconditionally trust U.S. initiatives.

Paradoxically enough, a Republican Party administration, traditionally under the domination of the hawks, has not expressed its support for the democratization of Latin America. Even though the administration claims to abide by the principle of self-determination, all U.S. statements undoubtedly have powerful influence on the domestic political situation of each country.

Yet despite its announced support for the democratization process, there is nothing Washington can do -- or at least it acts as if there were nothing it can do -- to keep its economic interests outside the State Department, where such interests are considered just another of the many ingredients of the U.S. foreign policy. All this results in inconsistencies like: a) Reagan hails Alfonsin's victory over the military revolt just after a U.S. decision to subsidize wheat sales to the USSR has caused a profitable Argentine business deal to fall through. The United States, however, is aware that stagnation and recession are the worst enemies of political stability; b) the United States supports the democratization process in Brazil, but when Brazilian computer manufacturers launched a campaign "to buy locally made" products, Washington frowned and mumbled something like "if they want war, they will have it." Actually, the chip [preceding word in English] war has already begun; c) when Argentina and Brazil joined their military and nuclear industries, the Pentagon panicked and announced that its spies will infiltrate this program and that, if possible, the program will be stopped. Why? Because the inexperienced Latin Americans cannot be allowed to play with the dangerous game of atoms and weapons without any kind of control, etc.

As we said, we welcome Washington's interest in Latin America. But at least for some time we should be granted the right to harbor doubts about how strongly the northern nation will remain committed to the principles it claims to cherish.

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO COLOMBIA

PY271614 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Apr 87 p 12

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar left yesterday for Colombia at the special invitation of the Colombian Government. He was accompanied by Rodney Elpidio Acevedo, under secretary of foreign relations; Julio Cesar Schupp, adviser to the Foreign Ministry; and Jose Maria Gutierrez, deputy director of protocol of the Foreign Ministry.

Before boarding the airplane at the international airport Saldivar said:

"I am going to Colombia to meet with Colombian Foreign Minister Londono. I am making a 3-day official visit at the special invitation of the Colombian Government."

He added: "This visit will help strengthen our very old friendship with the Colombian people, who have always been very close to our people especially during the Triple Alliance War."

He said: "We are going to review our bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues. We are going to concentrate our talks on ALADI which is important for its members as a further step for the integration of Latin America." [passage omitted]

COLORADO LEADER ON FUNDING POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

PY241907 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 23 Apr 87 pp 10, 11

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Colorado Party Executive Board President Juan Remon Chaves during a board meeting yesterday promised that "not 1 cent of party funds will be spent" on a political campaign. He also said he favors a "free and fair" party convention.

The news published in this newspaper yesterday, and which Chaves himself confirmed, caused reaction from the Colorado politicians.

Colorado Party Executive Board Vice President Adan Godoy Jimenez, during the board meeting yesterday, expressed his concern over the handling of party funds, particularly the case of the alleged used of funds to favor a certain candidate. "We must acknowledge the facts. Although our current president has agreed to be a candidate, next 2 May Sabino A. Montanaro's candidacy will be officially launched," Godoy Jimenez said catching the attention of the executive board members. He also requested that all the issues regarding the representation of the party delegated be studied by the party leadership first in order to prevent any doubts.

Chaves told Godoy Jimenez the lists of the party members are being processed by the Campesino Affairs Department and there are no problems in this respect.

"Regarding the possible use of party funds in this campaign, I can assure you that not 1 cent will come from the executive board. This can be verified by any of you," Chavez said categorically.

SHINING PATH MURDERS APRA OFFICIAL; BOMBS HOUSE

PY271448 Paris AFP in Spanish 2030 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 25 Apr [AFP] -- A leader of APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], the governing party, was murdered today by terrorists in the city of Trujillo, 550 km north of Lima, and the house of a leader of the opposition front, United Left (IU), was dynamited in Huancayo, 312 km east of the capital.

The terrorists of the Maoist Shining Path group are fighting against both the Social Democratic party of Alan Garcia and the Marxists led by Alfonso Barrantes, the mayor of Lima.

Dr Luis Geldres Gaona, APRA's provincial secretary in Santiago de Chuco, located in the eastern part of Libertad Department, was shot dead by three men and a woman who were waiting for him when he left his house in Trujillo.

In Huancayo, a powerful bomb destroyed the house of Juan Tutuy, a former leftist mayor of that central Andean city. His son, Salvador, who was the only one at home at the time, was miraculously saved but suffered some scratches on his leg.

In Tarapoto, located in the Amazon jungle 800 km northeast of Lima, a government official, Demetrio Tafur, was wounded. [passage indistinct]

AFP REPORTS ON MOST RECENT SHINING PATH ATTACKS

PY251251 Paris AFP in Spanish 2121 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The police today confirmed that Shining Path terrorists have detonated some 20 bombs on public and private property in the city of Cerro de Pasco in the southeastern Andean area and in three other towns. Cerro de Pasco was blacked out last night as a result of the felling of high-voltage power pylons.

Meanwhile, the Shining Path reported in Ayacucho that the police have killed a large number of people. A total of 27 peasants was killed in several towns in Ayacucho Department.

In Cerro de Pasco, 317 km east of Lima, the subversives took advantage of the darkness caused by a blackout to plant a dozen bombs in bank offices and on public and private property, including the post office building and an office of the ruling APRA party. No victims were reported.

The series of attacks promptly mobilized the police who attempted to capture the subversives, who fled to the hilly areas, taking advantage of the confusion and the darkness.

Terrorist attacks last night also occurred in Piura, north of Lima, where a Navy bus, which was parked at the main gate of the Naval Zone, and a bank office were dynamited.

In Tacna, on the Chilean border, the Santa Rosa parish church office was attacked. After overpowering parish priest Victor Manrique, the subversives stole a mimeograph. Other subversive groups took over the Radio Tacna radio station and broadcast a 4-minute subversive message.

In Cajamarca, in the northeast Andean area, another Shining Path group detonated explosive devices at a bank office. Serious damage was reported.

The Shining Path yesterday clandestinely distributed a communique, stating that the police had raided the towns of Hierbabuena, Chaupimayo, and Oronccy, La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department, on 18 October 1986, and 20 and 21 January 1987, killing 27 peasants, including children.

In addition, the Shining Path denied it was involved in the arson attack on the Magdalena Church in Ayacucho, which occurred during Holy Week, and was attributed to subversives by the local authorities.

Elsewhere, United Left [IU] Senator Andres Luna Vargas recently reported that on 5 April 1987, the Republican Guard machinegunned more than 40 inhabitants in Tangruga, Andahuaylas Province, Apurimac Department.

Vargas said the massacre was conducted in reprisal for a Shining Path raid on 4 April against the police station in the town of Nunmarca, Cocharcas Province (Andahuaylas). The subversives seized 20 automatic rifles and several grenades.

SENATE PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR NICARAGUA, PANAMA, U.S.

PY271303 Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 26 Apr (AFP) -- Armando Villanueva, the president of the Peruvian Senate, heading a delegation of 15 congressmen, departed today for Nicaragua to participate in the World Inter-Parliamentary Conference. From Nicaragua Villanueva will visit Panama and the United States.

Villanueva, who is the secretary general of the governing APRA party, when highlighting the importance of the conference, stated that this will be a good opportunity to talk with colleagues from throughout the world, and to discuss peace, disarmament, the foreign debt, and the development alternatives of the Third World.

In brief remarks to the local press, Villanueva also stated that he will meet with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, although he did not reveal the topics to be discussed with the Central American president.

After participating in the world conference, which begins on 27 April, he will make official visits to Panama and the United States.

NEW COMMAND TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUBVERSION

PA241322 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Armed Forces Unified Command No 1 [Commando Unificado Numero Uno] started to operate today. This organization will be in charge of planning strategies in the struggle against subversion and drug trafficking. This command replaces the Joint Operations Command, created in 1960 to confront armed subversion, and disbanded in 1964. Its commander will be Army Brigadier General Carlos Julio Penaloza Zambrano, former head of the Military Academy.

Unified Command No 1 has national jurisdiction and its goals are to formulate campaign plans, carry out joint military operations, control activities related to the production and marketing of narcotics and psychotrophic drugs, and take action in emergency situations such as disasters and catastrophes.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The Unified Command No 1 of the National Armed Forces is going to serve as a permanent organization for the planning of joint operations and, in case of emergency, will lead whatever operations may be deemed necessary by the defense minister and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the president of the Republic. [end recording]

Unified Command No 1 will have a close working relationship and communications with all of the country's police forces. The director of the Judicial Technical Police, Dr Pedro Arturo Torres Agudo, called the new command a vital organization in the defense of democratic institutions. DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] Chief Profirio Valera said that this is what has been lacking for a more thorough struggle against drug trafficking, especially at the borders.

In this same vein, Defense Minister General Jose Rafael Cardozo Grimaldi is leaving tomorrow for Brazil to sign agreements that will allow for more effective ways to fight the drug scourge.

[Begin Cardozo recording] I will have the opportunity to visit a few military installations, the various ministries, and the Brazilian military industry, which is one of the most advanced in the world. In my talks with the military chiefs and ministers, I will also have the opportunity to discuss matters pertaining to the joint action that we may develop in the struggle against drugs. [end recording]

Although the command headquarters will be here in Caracas, there will be permanent communications with all garrisons in the country so that strategies for security and defense may be developed.

HAITIAN DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS WITH LUSINCHI

PA241745 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Bilateral relations between Haiti and Venezuela will be further intensified through cooperation agreements. This was established during a meeting held by President Jaime Lusinchi and Haitian Defense Minister Williams Regala.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Elsie Barrueta] The meeting between Haitian Interior and Defense Minister Williams Regala and President Jaime Lusinchi lasted approximately 2 hours. Venezuelan Defense Minister Jose Rafael Cardozo Grimaldi also attended the meeting, in which they discussed the possibilities of technical cooperation by the Venezuelan Armed Forces and the Haitian Armed Forces, specifically training for the military service.

The newsmen were allowed to interview Regala at Miraflores Palace about democracy in Haiti. As you remember, the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti, which began in 1957, was finally overthrown in February 1986. A national government council was then appointed. Elections will be held soon, in November of this year.

[Regala in Creole with simultaneous translation into Spanish] Political evolution has been very positive. Proof of this is that in the past I would not have been able to come here to visit, but I am doing it now; it is an important fact. We have already set up all the structures to establish and consolidate democracy in Haiti. We are very optimistic.

[Barrueta] During his visit to our country the Haitian defense minister will also meet with representatives from other important government organizations. [end recording]

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH NEPAL

PA280201 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2340 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Caracas, 27 Apr (DPA) -- Today Venezuela and Nepal established diplomatic relations. The two countries agreed to strengthen their ties of friendship and promote a closer rapprochement as they are convinced this will permit cooperation inspired by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the official VENPRESS news agency stated.

"The establishment of these relations is within the framework of the actions announced by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi to broaden Venezuela's ties with countries in the African and Asian areas," the news agency added.

BRIEFS

COCAINE CONFISCATED -- U.S. citizens Milton Wilson, Samuel Jones, and Consuelo Burnett, have been detained in La Guaira with 26 kg of cocaine. The Judicial Technical Police, PTJ, is questioning them closely and will later turn them over to the proper authorities. PTJ drug department Chief Leonel Avila Oliveros is trying to determine whether the three have drug trafficking records in the United States. [Summary] [Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 87 PA]

DE LA MADRID DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICY

PA250250 Mexico City EL NACIONAL (Section Two) in Spanish 19 Apr 87 p 6

[By Carlos Cuevas Paralizabal]

[Text] In an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO, President Miguel de la Madrid discussed Mexico's domestic and foreign policy, which are both based on dialogue and peaceful negotiation and are in keeping with the law. He also touched on political, electoral, economic, social, and university issues, as well. The discussion of foreign policy focused mainly on Mexico's relations with the United States and the Central American conflict.

In reply to questions, the head of state said: Mexico is experiencing a process of political renewal and improvement of its democracy. Development plans are under way, and the crisis is not merely circumstantial. The Mexicans' standard of living has deteriorated and wages have decreased. However, the government is implementing a number of compensatory measures. The UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] needs to adjust to the present, upgrade academic quality, and perhaps also improve its administration. In its relations with the United States and in the face of the Central American conflict, Mexico maintains a foreign policy based on principles that are in keeping with national interests.

President de la Madrid said "Mexico has experienced a process of political renewal in the past years...there are more polemics, more criticism, and more negotiations." As for the PRI, he explained: "The strength of my party lies in its successful incorporation in the country's political life of large peasant organizations, large labor organizations, and large popular urban class organizations. This ensures that the people are in the heart of the party."

"The party opens the doors to peasant, labor, and popular leaders for election to office. That is why I am not surprised about disagreements within the party, because I know there is a mechanism of political negotiation to overcome them."

The head of state described the PRI as a multiclassist, democratic, political, electoral organization advocating permanent negotiation of interests and discussion of work methods. It is a party in which permanent internal debate leads to concerted efforts.

As for demands within the ruling party regarding the Mexican political process, the Republic's head of state said there are times when certain personalities wish to be prominently featured in the news, especially on the eve of a new presidential succession. "I believe this reality does not reflect the current situation. [sentence as heard] It in no way threatens the strength and unity of the party."

The history of the PRI shows debate has consolidated and strengthened this party. At times, that discussion has served as a filtering [decantador] element. However, it is axiomatic that political negotiation will serve as an element leading to the establishment of unity and discipline in keeping with the most important partisan documents.

The PRI process follows the lines of an electoral political renewal that began during this regime with amendments to Article 115 or the Constitution on strengthening municipalities. Such a process has received a significant boost from the new Federal Electoral Code and a project to create the Assembly of Representatives of the Federal District. The aim is to fortify federalism, make the electoral processs clearer, and increase citizen participation, especially in the Republic's capital.

Commenting on the economic policy implemented by his administration over the past 2 years, the Mexican head of state said that despite the 1985 earthquake and a brutal drop in petroleum prices in 1986, we have implemented a "development strategy of short-term adjustments to restructure the economy and at the same time introduce a number of structural changes."

Among the adopted measures are the constant exchange rate adjustments in response to the internal inflation and the situation of our balance of payments, as well as the restructuring of the public sector.

He reaffirmed that Mexico's development plans are qualitatively the same, but quantitative adjustments have been necessary. De la Madrid stressed that the crisis is not a circumstantial issue because it also reacts to domestic and foreign structural aspects.

Commenting on economic problems in the country in 1986, he described that year as "the worst year in our contemporary history" as a result of the drop in crude oil prices, which caused lost revenues of $8.5 billion, that is, 6 percent of the GNP and 25 percent of public revenues.

To absorb this shock, we adopted "drastic measures" ranging from cutting public expenditures to an increase in interest rates to hold savings, to an increase in public service rates, and a restructuring of the public sector.

The head of state said the privatization process of companies previously held by the state is taking place, in favor of Mexican companies, generally speaking. He pointed out that the state holds control and ownership of "what we consider to be strategic sectors of the economy such as petroleum, electricity, nuclear energy, postal service, and telegraphs."

He also said that at the end of 1982 there were 115,000 parastatal enterprises. Steps were taken to liquidate, merge, or sell them so that at present there are only 500 such enterprises.

He said that "in 1983 we made great strides in restructuring our economy. We lowered the inflation rate from nearly 150 percent in early 1983 to 80 percent at the end of this year. In 1984 we also managed to lower the inflation rate to a little less than 60 percent. In 1983, we retained some growth although the rate was not very high. It was approximately 3 percent."

However, 1986 "was a negative year for Mexico. Still, if we compare the dangers foreseen at the start of that year, I think our handling of the economy was adequate. When the year began the inflation rate was expected to rise over 200 percent. The inflation rate was 105 percent at the end of the year. Although economic activity was expected to drop by 10 percent, the actual figure was only 4 percent."

President de la Madrid explained that "in 1986, we also conducted very thorough and difficult negotiations to restructure our foreign debt. We reached an agreement with the IMF in September, and with the coordinating committee of the creditor banks."

He added that "throughout 1986 Mexico received no net external credit. After the September agreement we still had to negotiate with all the creditor banks. In 1986, we also received a high approval rate, approximately 75 percent. However, it was not until 21 March 1987 that we signed an agreement with the creditor banks, since 99 percent of the package was assured. This is for the most part what we did in 1986 with the strategy we drafted earlier that year."

President de la Madrid said in 1986 his administration continued opening the Mexican economy to the foreign market. Negotiations to join the GATT were successfully completed, and important steps were taken to substantially reduce import permits.

The president explained that the economic adjustments based on the austerity program have meant a decrease in the Mexicans' standard of living. "However" -- he said -- "we adopted a number of compensatory policies through social development programs. In 4 years, we decreased the illiteracy rate from 14.5 percent to 7.5 percent. We maintained the growth of secondary schools. We noticeably increased middle-level technical education, training centers, and maintained the aid to universities and higher centers of technical education.

"Regarding the health sector, public services were able to absorb the population growth. In terms of housing, in the past 4 years we built more than in the past 12 years.

"In addition, regarding wage negotiations, we noticed that management agreed to increase fringe benefits based on ways to distribute food products, or help in transportation costs. In that way, the negative impact was lessened."

Later, the Mexican president stressed: "I believe the Mexican people have proven their capacity to withstand adversity. I feel that capacity is there because the government has been very frank and honest in explaining the situation. We have greatly increased our dialogue with the public. Freedom of expression and the freedom to criticize has been fully upheld in the country."

Regarding relations between the state and the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM] the president said that students are restless and rebellious by nature. The students' rebellious nature was apparent early this year due to some academic reforms the university authorities decreed.

He explained that the UNAM has full autonomy and that the challenges it had to face on matters regarding its own statutes were overcome through negotiations and dialogue. "The UNAM must adapt to the times. It needs to improve its academic level, and perhaps modernize its administration," the president said after recalling that the conflict took place on the university campus and that the government did not intervene although there were huge street demonstrations. The students kept a responsible attitude. "The UNAM" -- the president remarked -- "is huge. It has over 300,000 students. It is a university for the masses. I believe the challenge rests in combining a university for the masses with academic standing. I believe that there are ways to achieve that."

IMPACT OF SIMPSON-RODINO IMMIGRATION LAW ASSESSED

FL231855 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1517 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The federal government is conducting a thorough assessment of the impact the U.S. Simpson-Rodino Immigration Law may have on Mexico because of the deportation of thousands of illegal workers. This was said by Arsenio Farell Cubillas, secretary of labor and social welfare.

He explained that an intersecretariat commission was created to analyze the Simpson-Rodino Law and its consequences. He stated: We will examine its magnitude and, of course, are already thinking about provisions. [passage omitted]

SENATE APPROVES AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 78

FL272117 Mexico City, NOTIMEX in Spanish 0005 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 25 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Senate today approved the amendment to Article 78 of the Constitution which states that as of 1988, the National Congress Permanent Committee will be comprised of 37 instead of the current 29 legislators. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

FOUR DRUG SMUGGLERS KILLED -- Guadalajara, 14 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The operation in which four drug smugglers were killed and cocaine valued at 40 billion pesos ($26,666,000) was seized is part of the program the Mexican authorities are conducting throughout the country. The commander of the 15th military zone, General Vinicio Santoyo Feria, reported that military members clashed with drug smugglers at a settlement near Tuxpan Municipality, in the western state of Jalisco. He said the Army was able to confiscate a light aircraft and 862 kg of cocaine, which was aboard the plane ready to be shipped. Drug smugglers Dario Gonzalez Mata, Jorge Nishimura Torres, Rigoberto Carillo Nunez, and Oscar Salez Banuelos were killed during the clashes. Maximo Caro Gallardo and the Colombian pilots Luis Carlos Lemus Rodriguez and Carlos Humberto Gomez were detained by the Mexican Army and surrendered to the Federal Prosecutor's Office. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2127 GMT 14 Apr 87 FL]

PRD, OPPOSITION TV DISCUSSION ON 'CRISIS,' PART 2

PA220427 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0339 GMT 21 Apr 87

["Special Edition" program with reporter Mayin Correa; part 2 of a program featuring Ricardo Arias Calderon, Christian Democratic Party president; Abraham Pretto, vice president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, Molierena; Ovidio Diaz, president of the legislative assembly, and Juan Materno Vasquez, prominent member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, former minister and former president of the Supreme Court of Justice -- live]

[Excerpts] [Correa] In this program, we would like to discuss with our guests Panama's protest to the United States over the latter's intervention in Panama's domestic affairs. The protest was officially filed by the Foreign Ministry and by Assembly President Diaz. The government's news media also echoed this protest due to incidents we will touch upon later. Panama's relations with the United States are important. We are partners in the country's most important natural resource up to and including the year 2000. We also will talk about the Panamenistas' request to recount the votes. I also will invite them to come to this program to discuss these things and the recount of votes of the 1984 election. The Panamenistas have sent three letters to Msgr McGrath. We would also like our panelists to talk about solutions in the latter part of the program, which you will surely like. What will happen? Is there really a crisis? What do they propose?

This is Monday and in this program we will continue to talk about the great national crisis. This is what LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA says, although some keep thinking there is no national crisis here in this country, that the current situation is normal in the peoples' development, and is a consequence of democracy, as Diaz once said. He also said democracy is at its fullest and that everybody feels free to protest when he is not happy. Last Monday, Vasquez said that a solution cannot be found through dialogue, but that a solution can surely be found through a revolution, a civil war, or an uprising of the people. Let us hear what Pretto has to say about this.

[Pretto] Mayin, I would like to make a remark. You will remember when last Monday's program was over you should have given me the opportunity to speak instead of Diaz. I accepted this at the time. This time, however, I would like you to keep in mind that it should be the other way around, then the regular order might be followed.

[Correa] I would be glad to.

[Pretto] Thanks. Again, I disagree with Diaz regarding the existence of an economic crisis here. What there truly is here is a political crisis, which has brought about an economic and fiscal situation. This situation, so to speak, has caused a greater crisis. The problems at hand require a political solution, first of all, to rectify all the crimes committed in the public administration, such as fraud, embezzlement, abuse of authority, and poor administration. Keep in mind that we do not refer only to the Social Security Fund, but also to IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification], what happened with the Van Dam Bridge, and what happened at Cerro Colorado as well. This is why I have said this is (?not) a crisis brought about now, but one that has been aggravated.

Diaz has said that the crisis can be solved with more money. I think this government has been able to stay in power longer precisely because it has poorly managed the money it has received. Otherwise, we would not have an economic crisis based on the more than $5,000 we each owe of the foreign debt, the many other loans we have already amortized, the increases in all levels of the fiscal activities. All this has been squandered by the government.

We are truly concerned because there is no money to solve the current crisis, not only with regard to salary increases for employees, but how the money spent by IRHE can be recovered, how the money looted from the Social Security Fund can be recovered. In addition, there are other institutions that still have not (?been affected). The IRHE crisis will be greater than that of the Social Security Fund when all things that have been happening come to light.

These things are not only administrative because of ineptitude and inability, but also technical. There have been many technical failures regarding the construction of the hydroelectric plants. They have not been courageous and honest enough to tell the people in an effort to solve the problems jointly.

[Correa] In other words, problems will not be solved even if we get $300 million tomorrow?

[Pretto] That will not absolutely solve any problems, even if $500 million are sent to us. Diaz thinks that because this solved problems in the past, this could continue for an indefinite period. They prolonged the country's agony for a long time. They still think a similar procedure will solve the problems now. Money can be used as an immediate palliative to solve some problems. Nevertheless, the fundamental problem will not be solved. There is a crisis, not only an economic but a political and, above all, an institutional crisis.

I will dwell on the institutional crisis. According to the Constitution and a system of democratic government, there are three state organs that operate independently yet in harmony. There also is an executive called president of the Republic. First of all, I must admit that he who now functions as executive does not enjoy the people's trust. He seems able enough, but he does not...

[Correa, interrupting] Why does he not enjoy the people's trust? General Noriega has just said it is he who is in command.

[Pretto] Gen Noriega...

[Correa, interrupting] I mean, President Delvalle.

[Pretto] Gen Noriega can say many things because he is part of this process and he wants to maintain the established system. President Delvalle is not in command. President Delvalle is a subordinate of the National Guard...

[Correa, interrupting] Who is in command, then? Gen Noriega? Gen Noriega has said that it is Delvalle who is in command.

[Pretto] Gen Noriega is in command because he is the absolute power, possibly advised by the staff members, by what we call the top echelons. Maybe not all of them are in agreement, but one must take military discipline into account.

Most of those in the lower ranks are already accomplices of all that has been happening in the National Guard. We are referring to their businesses, their income, their absolute power. This is what they have been doing. I will explain: Although a presumably democratic government was established after 1984, the first failure in the consensus which led to elections is that they ignored the election results and continued to impose their political system arbitrarily.

I also was a victim of this, and not just Arnulfo Arias, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Carlos Rodriguez. However, this is not what counts. What counts is that those who do these things do not realize they are harming the country and that, in the end, this situation will have to result in a political solution. I will refer to this later. Previously I mentioned the institutional crisis. Consider the assembly's integration: Why did they [not further identified] do it? Why were 17 benches selected? To be able to form an assembly in which the PRD would enjoy an absolute majority. What does this mean? That the other opposition parties were not trusted, for example, the PALA [Labor Party], to which you belong, the Republican Party, and the others which form the UNADE [National Democratic Union]. They wanted an absolute majority because their problems were difficult to solve. They required a legislative branch that fits their needs to impose the laws they regarded as useful to get the country out of the crisis.

[Correa] Well, enough of the assembly's illegality regarding the alleged fraud. Yet, there is proof, I mean, does the opposition have proof that not all of those who are there should be there? Is this only an opposition position or can you people prove that those 17 legislators really did not win the election?

[Pretto] Certainly this is somewhat complex, Mayin. But we of ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance] still keep all the election records. We must consider the isolated events in the elections, the definitive factors. They were a result of the way the lists were prepared. The political parties were partially responsible for this. The majority in the voting boards had been well planned in advance. A number of parties were formed. We also must consider the way they stole a number of election records. For example, it is well known that there were three staff members in Circuit 4 in San Blas. It is also well known that the first election record that arrived at the national election board was one from San Blas. Generally, it is the last to arrive because of the difficulties involved. This is also true of the Darien election record. They had electoral computation centers in all provinces; I refer to the National Guard; they were surely organized; they learned that very night who had won. . .

[Correa, interrupting] The National Guard? Perhaps you mean the Electoral Tribunal?

[Pretto] The National Guard had computation centers in every province. The Electoral Tribunal is a subordinate institution. This is what I want to tell you. They obey whomever rules over them. But let us get back to the crisis. Vasquez is quite familiar with the judicial branch crisis. I must admit he has been acting objectively. He has his own way of looking at things. We disagree on some matters, but basically I appreciate the honesty of his position and I must admit the situation is as he says. I honestly acknowledge the virtues of individuals. I confess this.

This judicial branch is suffering a general crisis. The worst thing that can happen is that justice is not administered. Justice is not administered here. This affects investments and the people, who know they will be defenseless at a particular moment. Just think, they do not respect each other. They have removed a large number of magistrates, most of whom were honest. I cannot say that not one of them has committed some sort of crime. But there were ways to investigate and report on these judges and remove them from their posts in time; this was never done, however. What does this mean? That we have reached a great moral crisis in the country. You and each one of us are concerned about this. We must accept it. This is not an economic crisis. No, any economic crisis would only be a consequence. Neither the PRD nor the government will solve the economic crisis. This is what we would require for a solution. [sentence as heard]

But let me conclude my analysis. The legislative organ is a caricature, however much my distinguished colleague Diaz argues to the contrary. He knows well that previously the legislators obeyed a national mandate. Now, most of the legislators, with rare exceptions, [words indistinct] obey a National Guard mandate. It has been said the National Guard has a political arm called the PRD. But what is the body of this arm? Is it not the National Guard? Why do I tell you this? Because we will analyze some constitutional concepts and I would like Vasquez [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Correa] Are the opposition parties, who have pointed out the crisis, willing to hold a dialogue with all those with whom they should hold one to solve the crisis? This is what counts [words indistinct].

[Pretto] We will now consider all those details, although you cut a little of the time allotted to me...

[Correa, interrupting] No, no. You have kept track of the time you have spoken.

[Pretto] I want to conclude my remarks about Article 105. The National Guard...I have nothing against the National Guard. I think it is an institution that should stay, yet many things bother some people. They have a promotion roster; they drafted Law 20; they developed Paragraph 2 of Law 20. There is no way... [changes thought] I want this to remain clear, despite Vasquez' remarks. There is no rule saying that the commander in chief, the executive, the supreme political leader of civilians and who must be above the military, has the authority to dismiss anyone.

[Correa] However, he can appoint them.

[Pretto] Well, he can appoint [interrupted by Correa, the two try to speak at the same time, Correa's remarks indistinct] The other thing is this. I agree with Arias Calderon, and I am sure my party also agrees. We of the political parties have been trying to find a solution to the national crisis for a long time. We have reported it. Every time we report it, we have been said to have very separate interests. Noriega has said this. He is the one who has absolute power. We will say, however, that the rulers who represented civilian power -- and I say they should be above military power, or the National Guard -- also had a commander in chief of the National Guard whom they consulted. They were part of the decisions made here to avoid social conflicts that sometimes result in their coming out to defend the governments, the bad governments.

Even those bad governments permit a removal period of 4 years, right? Now, I think what has truly happened is that those who have absolute power -- the National Guard -- and that represent the opposition parties and have the PRD -- this party has not benefited them at all, and Vasquez will have to excuse me -- have not had the political willingness to sit down and seriously consider the solution to problems. They think they can solve these problems all by themselves. This is why we have continued to [Correa interrupts]. [passage omitted]

[Arias] Mayin, I would like us to shift our conversation back to the topic you proposed originally, even though there has been some discussion of it already. I think that, with the exception of Legislator Diaz -- and I think this is a functional exception, not a substantial one, because he in fact is acting as a spokesman for the Assembly -- all of us agree that we are experiencing a very profound crisis extending to all aspects of the country, and what distresses us is trying to determmine how we are going to extricate ourselves from it.

I think that, without meaning to, we have been drifting toward the decisive issue in the solution to the crisis, which is a change in the status of the Defense Forces regarding political power. I would like to quote an author who, as you will realize, is not someone I have followed politically. I will quote from an article by Diogenes de la Rosa. He said: The Armed Forces who permanently exercise power undergo permanent attrition to the point where they lose their professionalism, thus destroying the military leadership cadres. The source of the quote was General Torrijos.

I think this situation is occurring. We are faced with defense forces that not only prevent the country from finding a solution to its crisis, but are experiencing attrition themselves. I would like to point some things out in this regard.

In the upper echelons there has not been a single important retirement of any General Staff Officer in 1 year and several months even though several of those officers completed 25 years of active service some time ago. Also, for over 1 year and several months there has not been a single important promotion -- one of those that characterize the institutional life of a corps. This means that there is an institutional bottleneck in the middle echelons. Something like this also is happening in the lower echelons. The salary level of the troops is the same as that of most Panamanians -- below the family subsistence level. Even though I do not have the exact figures, I know that in the Panama Police Corps [Panama policia] there is a substantial number of members who have accrued annual leave of 6-7 years.

The defense forces themselves are affected by the attrition that is plaguing the country, by the crisis the country is experiencing. It does not take too much imagination to realize that the international image of the defense forces is deteriorating. Their international image -- I do not mean this was necessarily an actual fact, but it was indeed an image -- reached its apex when Gen Torrijos signed the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. However, the image of the senior military officers we have had since then has gradually declined and the country rejects their intervention in politics. This is the crux of the matter. Are they prepared...

[Correa, interrupting] Excuse me, [words indistinct] talking about the National Guard. However, the National Guard currently is building the roads; the National Guard is carrying our health programs...

[Arias, interrupting] In other words, it is doing...

[Correa, interrupting] The National Guard is promoting tourism. The National Guard is painting the schools...

[Arias, interrupting] Mayin...

[Correa, interrupting] The National Guard is the one that is building the main roads...

[Arias, interrupting] This is like the case of an adult who does what the young man should do and prevents the young man from doing his job. This is the case of someone who holds power and assumes more and more functions outside his purview, preventing others from performing their duties. It is the job of the Public Works Ministry to build the roads. Health matters are the job of the Health Ministry. The transfers of teachers must be handled by the Education Ministry. However...

[Correa, interrupting] However, it [not further identified] does not have the required resources.

[Arias] It does not have the resources because they are being more and more monopolized...

[Correa, interrupting] To transport the teachers... It does not have helicopters [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

[Arias] I think that any solution to the country's problem has an absolutely insurmountable factor; that is, unless we lapse into situations of widespread violence, which I personally would like to avert. [sentence as heard] This insurmountable factor is the awareness of the part of the military that our country can no longer tolerate the model it maintains regarding exercise of political power. There have been democratization processes that have not involved widespread violence in Latin America, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, and Ecuador are cases in point as is Honduras, which is closer to home.

[Correa, interrupting] Argentina...

[Arias, interrupting] In Argentina there was a war in between. However, in all cases I have mentioned, and in some other cases we could raise there came a time when the Armed Forces in those countries realized that they were experiencing attrition during the crisis and that for the good of the country and for the sake of their own professional institution they had to find a new place for themselves. They carried out the process, but not without difficulties. However, the process gradually was carried out. The problem in Panama is that we are not carrying out this process. We are running counter to Latin American history. We are heading more and more toward interventionism on petty, medium sized, and big issues.

Therefore, I think that one factor in the solution would be that the military become aware that this democratization process is necessary...

[Correa, interrupting] In the [words indistinct] the canal, doctor; the need that they become organized. As Noriega said, they are preparing the youth more than the civilians [as heard] for the year 2000, to assume responsibility for the canal's security and the whole burden they bear.

[Arias] I think that the canal's security involved several factors. One of those factors is the military factor. Gen Torrijos used to say, and I again quote him in this context, that the short-term security of the installations could be guaranteed with 300 bilingual policemen. As for strategic security, Gen Torrijos talked, so to speak, about the strategic security provided by what he called the Pentagon's umbrella. Between these two security elements lies a third one, which I think is the key element: the consensus of a country that wants to safeguard the canal, that wants to use it responsibly for its own development and for the benefit of the international community.

I do not think we will lack 300 bilingual policemen, according to Torrijos' formula. I do not think we will lack the Pentagon's strategic umbrella, if we want it. I think that what we Panamanians lack now to guarantee the canal's security and for everything else is to reach again a certain political consensus regarding our institutions. In this I concur with Abraham's point of view about the institutional aspect. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] [passage omitted] Maying, I can say something else. I am president of the Assembly and I direct all blocs. At this Assembly, precisely during this legislature, we have approved bills with the greatest degree of concensus between the two blocs. I get no calls or orders to be present at any of the Assembly's activities. Therefore, we are distorting our realities somewhat. Let us go back to the crisis.

I do think there is a crisis and unemployment. I do think that many roads are not being built in the rural areas of the country because there is no money. I think there is an excess of bureaucracy in our country because private enterprise was unable to absorb this labor force at a given moment, and one cannot fire thousands of people no matter what our economic or financial circumstances are.

I think that many problems warrant our holding dispassionate meetings within the framework of the nation's fundamental interests. We must attend such meetings. I believe in holding honest elections, as I said in [words indistinct] Dr Arias. I think everybody tries to hold on to power. It is a responsibility. However, there has been a misinterpretation here of one of Gen Torrijos' remarks. He said that the least a ruling party can do is to try to stay in power, but not against the will of the people. He said himself that 1984 would be a test of whether we could overcome this hurdle.

I think that truly honest elections must be held in 1989 and that power must be given to whoever has the most votes. [passage omitted]

We do not want either money or alms.

[Correa, interrupting] Then...

[Diaz, interrupting] We want justice. Justice begins by protesting against any kind of intervention — whether it is from the United States, Russia, or any other country -- in Panamanian internal affairs.

[Correa, interrupting] O.K., up to that point we agree. However, the problem is that the U.S. House Subcommittee for Western Hemisphere Affairs approved a proposal made by New York Congressman Stephen Solarz, which makes the badly needed U.S. economic aid -- for example I have heard that our government cannot fulfill a minor duty such as providing $5 million to buy parts that are urgently needed, for example at the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification -- contingent upon a certification by President Reagan guaranteeing that the 1989 elections in our country will be free, honest, and clean. In other words, to take the legal and institutional measures to prevent the elections from being described as fraudulent as our last elections have been throughout all these years. Why am I mentioning all this? Because if that motion, which already was approved by that subcommittee goes through, the economic aid will be suspended, and it so happens that we depend on that aid to pay debt interests and even payrolls!

[Diaz] That is not true, Mayin. We are not getting aid from those sectors...

[Correa, interrupting] Oh, then we do not need the money coming with that aid? Oh, then I am very happy about this! [all program participants speak simultaneously]

[Correa] Why don't we continue in the same vein? Let me tell you I am very happy with the news that Engineer Ovidio Diaz has given us here. He has just told us that we do not need U.S. aid. Are you not happy, Dr Arias? [all program participants speak simultaneously]

[Arias] For me the principle of nonintervention is the other side of a coin that goes along with another principle: the people's right to self-determination.

A people that determines its own destiny deserves respect for its autonomy and responsibility from the international community.

However, what happens when the right to self-determination is not exercised by the people, but by military elites that imposed their rule on the people? What happens when for 30 or 40 years a Somoza-type dictator and his ancestors make a farce of the people's right to self-determination? Well, the people living in those circumstances demand what they call and what they feel is the solidarity of the international community. They ask other political leaders and other people to make statements on their behalf.

I think that this is what is happening here in Panama. There is a military elite that is not letting our people exercise its right to self-determination. It is imposing its interests and its will on our people. Therefore, our people feel that statements like those made by Solarz are not an intervention in our affairs but an expression of solidarity. I want to point out that a few months ago the government presented to the country a Fidel Castro half-hour-long speech.

Castro openly and directly meddled in our internal affairs and spoke in favor of the Panamanian military men. They considered that speech the local and international support for those who hold Fidel Castro in esteem. The government considered the speech Fidel Castro's act of solidarity with the regime.

[Correa] Engineer Diaz, is that how you regarded Fidel Castro's speech?

[Arias, interrupting] I would like to finish this topic by pointing out a very specific image. Let us imagine that I have a friend with whom I even share an enterprise -- an enterprise that we call the Canal -- I have a common activity with this friend. In fact, every once in a while that friend asks me to lend him money through an office I own that I called IDB. One day waliking on the street I see my friend mistreating his wife and children. My instinct tells me to tell that friend: Listen, reach an understanding with your wife and children, solve your family problems; otherwise our relationship cannot remain the same.

I think that this specific example, which is common between neighbors, among the people, and in all neighborhoods in general, helps us to understand what is happening in our country. Many people think that our people's and country's right to self-determination has been diminished. For example, [former Venezuelan president] Carlos Andres Perez visited us, and he said that the Panamanian democracy needed improvement, because it was not a perfect democracy yet. I also know that other social democratic and socialist leaders have sent similar messages to their PRD friends inside and outside the government. Those are regular acts of solidarity in an international community in which a people's destiny is the concern of all the peoples around it.

[Correa] Do you agree with this?

[Vasquez] I think that Dr Arias Calderon has been [words indistinct].

I think that we have to thank Dr Arias Calderon for his statements, because they could have really provided an ideological dimension to this interesting debate. We have to discuss what he has said. I disagree with him, because my studies of Latin American political history tell me something different.

First, they tell me that the Monroe Doctrine existed and still exists. They tell me...[changes thought] I was going to recommend that you, someone who is so earnest about investigations on Latin American problems, read a book called "Tropical Beastdom" [El Bestiario Tropical] by Alfredo Iriarte. It is a magnificent prose. In my opinion, that book is almost as important as Machiavelli's "The Prince." "Tropical Beastdom" describes the aberrations committed by Latin American military dictatorships. I am happy with what Iriarte wrote, because he did not include my friend Omar [Torrijos] in his book.

I would like to beg you, distinguished journalist and citizen Correa, you who have proven to be so independent in your views...[changes thought] This is why I came to your program; why not say it now? You recall that we had various disagreements when I was president of the Supreme Court of Justice. You accused me of things, and you had the right to do so. I was never bothered by that. You accused me of what you considered to be an act of political participation by the then president of the Supreme Court. [passage omitted]

I maintain a strictly partisan position. I want to think and communicate great ideas in this country. In this case, it would be worthwhile to have a television program to discuss the role of the defense forces in Panamanian political history. Of course, it would be better not to do this in such a fragmented way, because we run the risk of having the time factor interfere with the debate. For example, neither Dr Arias Calderon, Abraham Pretto, Ovidio Diaz, nor I have been able to elaborate our thoughts. Therefore, that debate would end with too many loose ends, which instead of contributing to clear up the topic, would throw more shadows upon it.

For example, it is not the same to talk about U.S. interventionism, which is the essense of U.S. foreign affairs on the slopes of the four continents [as heard] as it is to speak of the rhetorical interventionism of Carlos Andres Perez, Pena Gomez [Jose Francisco] and all those individuals who pass through Panama. They speak, but they do not give money. They give advice, but not solutions. Carlos Andres Perez is a rhetorical copy of Simon Bolivar, nothing more. Ranging from Pena Gomez to Durate [as heard] is the same thing. However, when people tried to get Felipe Gonzalez involved in all this, that little Spanish man said: One moment; first Spain, second Spain, and third Spain.

The great problem, Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, is not the statements [words indistinct]; the great problem is the true U.S. interventions, which have the power of an orchestra director who makes all musicians play the symphony he wants. Panama is a small Latin American country that can still have distinguished personalities such as you, who, according to me, are mistaken in your political statements and views -- you also think I have strange political views [Vasquez laughs]. [passage omitted]

However, there are things we would have to tell Manuel Antonio Noriega and Roberto Diaz if they were to come to a program like this one, because they indeed have extraordinary decision-making power in this country. The one who denies this...

[Arias, interrupting] Only one thing, Dr Vasquez; I would gladly participate in such a program if you invite the two persons you just mentioned to talk about the relations between the defense forces and the country's political life. You can be sure that I would gladly participate in that program.

[Vasquez] Of course, they have to come.

[Correa, interrupting] You, too.

[Vasquez] Thank you. I want to use these television channels to invite my friends Manuel Antonio Noriega and Roberto Diaz Herrea. I am going to invite them over the phone, and I am going to write a letter, too. Why? Because the country does not belong to the Christian Democracy, or MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], or the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], or the ecclesiastical hierarchy. This country belongs to all Panamanians.

It belongs to 200 million Panamanians [as heard], who are the battlefield in a war of elephants, and we have already seen that in wars among elephants, only the field of battle is damaged. That is what we are, and I consider it really absurd, methodologically absurd, that we should have an education minister here who only yesterday promoted a strike against government, but today says that the teachers should not protest and should not miss a day of classes, because he is going to impose discipline. This country cannot advance with that kind of people, Mayin.

[Arias] We agree.

[Vasquez] With such opportunists, the country cannot advance.

[Pretto] Could I have a few minutes?

[Vasquez] Abraham, I end by saying that I respect all of you because that is Omar's philosophy: to respect people of value. Unfortunately, others do not think in the same way; others do not act in the same way. I will tell my friend, Ovidio, with all my characteristic sincerity: You may not be called upon to make decisions, but there are deputies who are called upon for this purpose. That is all.

[Correa] Friends, sirs, I do not know how much time we have left because there is no one to tell me the time, and my watch has stopped. However, Mr Pretto wanted to add something on the subject of... [changes thought] I broached the subject of the relations with the United States. Dr Arias Calderon commented on this subject, as did Dr Materno. Did you want to comment on the same subject? I also noted the danger I saw in suspending that economic aid, because I believe this is really the worst moment for this to happen, although Ovidio disagrees.

[Pretto] I want to say something, and I will try to be brief. On this subject, I want to say that I do not believe in interventionism by developing countries when it does not benefit the recipient country and when countries are being managed democratically. For example, I am not offended by Solarz' statements, because he actually is interested -- he and another group -- in seeing Panama achieve real democratization, because they have interests in this area. Their hemispheric interests... [changes thought] They are from this hemisphere, not from Russia or some other place. If, for example, the government... [changes thought] On many occasions, the PRD has received aid and support from the national government, because they have given them political support and economic aid. I cannot be against this, because actually we have accused them many times of maintaining a political situation here in Panama that does not benefit all Panamanians. Thus, I cannot be offended by Solarz' words, nor can I object, for example, to the granting of aid to the National Guard, or whatever you want to call them, if they use that money properly.

I would not oppose real aid from the U.S. Government to countries such as our own that are experiencing very difficult situations, if they help us to exercise democracy as they exercise it in their country. I do not oppose this, and any statement in this respect is totally welcome.

[Correa] Unfortunately, we have run out of time -- not only time, but the cassette as well. I thank you all very much, Dr Arias, Mr Pretto, Mr Ovidio Diaz, and Dr Materno Vasquez for your presence here these last two Mondays. We will invite the rest of the parties to discussions about political subjects. Materno Vasquez will undertake to invite the military chiefs -- in whom the real power lies and who, many people think, are the persons guilty of all our woes -- to come here to talk, in an open, public dialogue that reaches the entire country, because this is the only real television network in the country. Good night.

NORIEGA ON AREA PEACE, 'CAMPAIGN' AGAINST HIM

PA271437 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2006 GMT 26 Apr 87

[Text] Panama City, 26 Apr (DPA) -- "Central America continues on the scale (escala) of a silent war," [as received] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, (FDP), said during an exclusive interview with DPA.

During the interview, Noriega discussed the Central American situation, the Contadora Group, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace proposal, the "contras," U.S. President Ronald Reagan's policy, criticism of Panama abroad, and other topics.

Gen Noriega, 48, said: "Whatever happens in Nicaragua will affect the rest of Central America."

"Several years ago there was concern about what would happen in Nicaragua. That concern continues with other more subtle and accentuated characteristics," said Noriega, whose close advisers identify him with the initials M.A.N., which everyone in Panama City understands. He is also known as "big tiger" or "big chief."

"The silent war causes a social war, and this in turn causes a migratory bomb. The Nicaraguans are crossing into Costa Rica. They are coming to this country, and adults, children, elderly are arriving in Panama. As illegal aliens, they are a social problem for us."

Ragarding the Contadora Group, M.A.N. was categorical: "A realistic analysis shows that it has not been a successful as expected. However, we must recognize that it is the only hope for pacification."

According to Noriega, Contadora has prevented "a generalized war from breaking out in Central America. We would have had war if Contadora had not existed."

Noriega believes that "Costa Rican President Arias' peace proposal is good. It includes the basics of Contadora and adds a timetable." He revealed that he discussed this peace plan with the Sandinists after he met with Arias in Chiriqui 1 month ago. "Nicaragua has been notified," Noriega said.

He believes that the United States is currently "reevaluating tactics and strategies regarding Nicaragua," and added that the U.S. military "believes that the strategy must be changed."

Noriega was not very optimistic about the results of the upcoming meeting of Central American presidents, set to take place on 25 June in Esquipulas, Guatemala. "In Central America there is still the possibility of [reaching] a peaceful solution in Esquipulas. However, we must wait and see," he said.

He said that the "contras" have not been as successful as they had expected, and that "lack of success" also will force them to seek a peaceful solution. If they do not seek a peaceful solution there will be a "war of attrition" and "a vicious cycle of killing" would result.

Meanwhile, he stressed that the Central American military men must be taken into account in the search for a peaceful solution.

To Noriega, Panama's main problem is the foreign debt. The foreign debt obstructs "social solutions in Latin America, and in Panama there is no exception."

On the possibility that there will be a social upheaval in Panama in reaction to the many existing problems, including salaries, unemployment, housing, among others, Gen Noriega said that he has "faith in Panama, in this young country, where there are no deep social differences that lead people to explosions of hatred or revenge." Noriega believes that "in Panama the social gap between groups, far from becoming wider, is narrowing." He added: "Now, any Panamanian, from any social level, can occupy a high position and even be president of the Republic."

He believes that "a campaign that is more against Panama than against me" has been mounted abroad. (Various U.S. newspapers have accused Noriega of being an arms and drug trafficker and a Soviet and U.S. spy).

Noriega, who rejects all the charges made against him, said: "A very small sector in the United States and a very small sector in Panama are involved in that campaign." He explained emphatically: "Those little groups would like Panama to be another star on the U.S. flag."

During the interview, Gen Noriega added that after being studied by a group that specializes in psychological warfare, it was concluded that "this campaign in typical. It follows specific patterns designed to subjugate countries and men."

"We have examined earlier documents and seen," he stressed, "that as soon as General Omar Torrijos (killed in an accident in July 1981) began talking about sovereignty over the Panama Canal, he was the object of a campaign like the one that has been mounted against me during the past several months."

He recalled that "an avalanche was unleashed against Torrijos," and that it was also directed "against his family and his foreign minister, Juan Tack. However, Torrijos stood firm and the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which will give us the canal in 1999, were signed."

"They try to intimidate you. They say: Either you keep quiet and stop doing what you are doing, or we will attack you," Noriega said.

HONDURAS

AZCONA INTERVIEW ON ECONOMY, CONTRAS, PLANES

PA231626 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0422 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Interview with President Jose Simon Azcona Hoyo by unidentified reporter; no place or date given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Right after a meeting between the finance minister and a commission of deputies from the National Congress, it was rumored that the central government is facing a huge economic crisis caused by the nation's revenues and increased public spending. I discussed the issue with President Azcona.

[Azcona] I do not believe we should have to go to such extremes, and it is not true that there has been a decrease in regular revenues in comparison to last year's revenues. There has been a slight difference with regard to the budget; however, this year, for example, we collected 310.5 million [currency not specified] in regular revenues during the first 3 months of the year against 245.7 million during the first 3 months of last year. There have been substantial improvements in fields such as income and import and export taxes. The fact is that there are many unbudgeted expenses that must be paid, and this considerably increases the fiscal deficit. I can list them: the teachers' salary increases, the inclusion of the (?Centrodemec) workers in the civil service, other expenses, the medical center which must receive an allotment this year and another next year, etc, etc. The meeting with the deputies was to clarify the situation so Congress would know that to adopt measures to lower taxes, lower tariffs, and prepare new expense account would contribute to making the situation more difficult than it is at present. However, the revenues, as I said before, are not bad. There has been an increase of 26 percent in the first 3 months of the year in comparison to last year's revenues, and more revenue increases are expected.

[Reporter] When you speak of a possible reduction of taxes, are you referring to the credit plan, among others, to benefit the coffee companies?

[Azcona] Yes. I believe at this time there is no reason for that plan because it would not benefit the producers. By the end of April, I believe there will be few producers who have not sold their crops to exporters, and we would only be providing exclusive benefits for the exporters. I believe that the Honduran Government, or rather the Honduran state through a decree issued by the National Congress last year, came to the exporters' aid at a very difficult time for them. This aid cost the state more than 35 million lempiras. I see no reason to repeat the plan this year because coffee exports have been much greater this year than last year, and I can demonstrate this with figures: Last year, by 31 March, 18.3 million [currency not specified] had been collected from coffee exports, and on the same date this year 21.1 million has been collected. This does not mean that more was charged for each sack of exported coffee; what it means is that a larger number of sacks was exported during the first 3 months of the year.

[Reporter] Does this mean that you would veto a congressional decree that would benefit the coffee exporters?

[Azcona] I must talk to the president of the Congress and several deputies. I must take care of the Honduran people's interests. At this point I cannot create new taxes, nor can we expose ourselves to a devaluation of the lempira.

We must be sensible, we must act in accordance with what we receive, but we must not lower our revenues. If, on the one hand, revenues are decreased through the creation of decrees to reduce import taxes, for example, while on the other hand expense accounts are created, the problem will only increase. I believe the situation will be manageable as long as we exercise caution. Two months ago I gathered the entire Council of Ministers and gave them clear instructions to be very careful with their spending, and I can tell you that the ministries are being very careful. The ministers were given instructions to exert their authority on the boards of directors of the decentralized institutions of which they are members. I told them to take action, and they are adopting corrective measures at all the state institutions.

[Reporter] Then you would veto a decree of this nature?

[Azcona] I must veto any decree that will force us to create new taxes in the future or devaluate the lempira. This is a responsibility that I will exert.

[Reporter] If these phenomena do not emerge, should we fear a tax reform this year?

[Azcona] No. What we have been doing and will continue doing with added strength is to improve our tax system, we are making great efforts to improve our income tax system. Unfortunately, in this country only people like us who earn a salary have paid income taxes. There are Liberal Party professionals... [changes thought] In fact, certain people earn salaries and they mix those salaries with income from farming and business activities and, in the end, they do not even pay taxes on their salaries. That is unacceptable.

We must amend that law; we must ensure that personal revenues are not mixed with business on the side in the reporting of losses and, in turn, ensure that taxes are paid on salaries earned in state institutions themselves.

We have been and will continue to do these kinds of things. We have already reaped benefits. For example, as for income tax collections. I can reveal that we have collected 20 million [currency not specified] more in the first 3 months of this year than in the same period last year, although the deputies' degree was issued at the last minute. Many people who were unable to pay taxes before 31 March are paying them in April. We are waiting to see the effect of this on the (?budget) as of 30 April.

[Reporter] President Azcona, in the initial part of this interview you used the word devaluation twice. Is there an imminent danger of a devaluation? The presidential designate said that we need to make great efforts to prevent a devaluation.

[Azcona] I wish to say with great satisfaction that we received a report from the World Bank regarding Honduras' economic situation. That report actually showed that possibility becoming improbable. This is inferred from last year's economic results. Of course, from last year to date there have been some negative factors, such as a decrease in coffee prices, the problem involving the Rosario mining company, which we are trying to keep in operation, and other negative factors.

However, I also think that there are some positive factors. There are some new export products, and we are making efforts to bring dollars into the country. Also, I was told last week that this year we will be exporting about 100,000 tons of cement; 2 years ago, we did not even export one bag and last year we exported 30,000 tons. Yes, we will be exporting 100,000 tons of cement. I think that we are exporting more meat than last year because prices have improved, although there are no subsidies. I believe that we will come out ahead and should not think about a devaluation.

[Reporter] Mr President, the National Congress president has again talked about lowering electricity rates. Do you share his opinion?

[Azcona] Look, I have with me a report of the [words indistinct] IDB orientation mission. This report is clear: The ENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power] is a very solid business with a debt of 1,357,600,000 [currency not specified], but its assets are 4 to 5 times larger than that amount.

That is, the ENEE has a solid economic situation, it faces no major problems. However, it does have a liquidity problem; it has had a negative cash flow in the past years. Here are the estimated 1987-96 payments to service the debt: In 1987, the estimated amount to service the debt is 278.9 million [currency not specified], including 199.4 million for amortization and 79.5 million in interest. By contrast, in 1996 there will be an amortization of only 52.5 million and interest of 22.75 million.

Contrary to this, in 3 or 4 more years, and more so after 1996, we will be consuming all the energy being generated at El Cajon. by then, ENEE will have much larger revenues than at present. That is to say, there are critical years, because there is a negative cash flow. That is why it is very dangerous to talk right now about reducing rates at ENEE. We should not talk about that, because that affects Honduras' credit standing.

There is another thing: When any decentralized state organization, the government, or any organization depending on the government fails to pay a debt, the affected creditor institution cuts off all other pending funds. If the ENEE fails to pay banks such as the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] or the IDB, the government is forced to immediately pay that debt. Otherwise, all funds from the IDB, IBRD, or any organization involved will cut off funds for any project in Honduras.

Therefore, if we take funds away from the ENEE, we will do nothing but worsen the cash flow situation it has. This will have an effect on the Republic's treasury, because [words indistinct] to pay ENEE debts.

[Reporter] What would happen should the Congress issue a decree to approve a rate reduction? The discussion of whether public service rates will be increased or decreased is current at this time.

[Azcona] As I said before, I would have no other option than to veto any decree affecting or worsening the fiscal situation of Honduras. We cannot thoughtlessly pass laws that will have negative repercussions not only on this government, but also on future governments.

This government will only last 2 years and 8 or 9 months more; our term will go by quickly. The year 1987 will go by in no time, and then there are 2 more years. Nevertheless, we must always keep the future in mind. We must not think: After us, a deluge can come.

I do not think in those terms. I always think that we must strengthen the state economy as well as the private sector. If we do not enjoy a bonanza during this generation, we want future generations to enjoy a better Honduras.

[Reporter] Mr President, two National Congress deputies have said that you should go to Capire, on the Nicaraguan border, to see for yourself that contras are still there.

[Azcona] Well, I do want to go there to inaugurate a little project in Trojes. It is a very pretty 25-unit housing project that the INVA [National Housing Institute] recently completed. They sent me the photos. I believe that I will visit that area. There possibly are some contras there, but I believe that that is given much...[changes thought] The Hondurans have been excessively preoccupied with that problem. We know that the problem exists; we did not create it, and we all know its causes, which I have cited many times. We are making efforts to resolve it.

[Reporter] Gradually?

[Azcona] No, not all that gradually. I believe that if there still are contras in Honduras, there are not thousands of them like in the past.

[Reporter] Will you go to Capire?

[Azcona] I believe that I will go to Trojes. I will speak with the director of INVA to plan the inauguration of that housing project, which is very pretty. It has only 25 housing units, but they are very pretty. I believe it will be a good idea to go there to give the people encouragement.

[Reporter] Mr President, left-wing forces have begun to criticize the plan to purchase 12 F-5E planes. They are protesting that so many millions of dollars will be invested to purchase those planes while there is so much poverty here. You told HRN on another occasion that Honduras will not disburse money to purchase those planes.

[Azcona] The Honduras Armed Forces have a budget. However, I believe they will not use that budget to purchase the planes. There is an agreement by which the United States will furnish those planes to us, just like the USSR furnishes Nicaragua with helicopters, artillery pieces, and tanks.

[Reporter] Can the Honduran people rest assured that development funds will not be diverted to purchase these planes?

[Azcona] Absolutely. The United States gives military assistance to Honduras. I believe that part of the funds will come from there, and the rest probably will come from another U.S. program. The U.S. Congress must approve this.

[Reporter] Mr President, you once said that anybody can [words indistinct]. It has been reported that the president of Conadi [National Investments Corporation] owns a customs agency and that he is using it inappropriately. It reportedly collects higher fees from enterprises that are under Conadi jurisdiction.

[Azcona] Yes. Orders have been issued to conduct an investigation into this. The economy minister was here yesterday. The investigation will be conducted. If that is true, we will have to dismiss Ramos, even though I believe that custom service fees are standard. We are not qualified to say whether he collected more or less. I cannot say that at this time. However, if there is indeed an irregularity we will have to remove Ramos from office. The same will apply to the so-called milk case [mini lechazo]. I spoke with the minister on the same day that the news appeared. I phoned here from home. I believe I phoned her on Saturday. I spoke with her twice after that. I spoke with her again this morning. She said the DIN [Department of National Investigation] is handling this and that it is being investigated because it appears that seals were forged and other similar things. If it leads to anything the guilty will have to face justice.

[Reporter] Are there any high officials involved in the milk case?

[Azcona] Not at all. The gentleman who managed this milk concern, Professor Pinto, is considered an honest person. I believe he is honest. However, before this, the minister had transferred him elsewhere, because I believe he has more experience in education than administration. He already had been transferred -- however, not over this case. He had been transferred because that department was apparently not working very well.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr President.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT CALLS U.S. 'MEDIOCRE ALLY'

PA271807 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Report by San Pedro radio correspondent Tomas Arturo Chi Medina -- live or recorded]

[Text] Yesterday during a rally in El Progreso, Honduran National Congress President Carlos Orbin Montoya called the United States a mediocre ally. Carlos Montoya criticized the U.S. Government for not knowing how to defend its allies, in light of the recent U.S. Congress cutbacks on economic assistance to Central America.

Amid the shouts and applause of his followers, meeting yesterday in El Progreso to acclaim him as President Jose Azcona Hoyo's successor, Carlos Montoya said: I do not want to depend on the aid of a country that does not know how to defend its allies. I do not want Honduras to be embroiled in a war the way Vietnam was. We do not want war with anyone. I want Honduras to be strictly neutral. The politician added: We do want money for our development, but we do not want war with anyone.

In his speech, Carlos Montoya said that Nicaraguans must work out their problem themselves. We do not like communism. However, Nicaraguans must get rid of it. We must earmark all our resources for the development of the people of Honduras.

Later, he noted that our enemies are poverty, exploitation, and dependency. He suggested to the people hailing him that we must attack those enemies by turning out current model of development into a more dynamic one based on agricultural production.

Regarding his party's internal affairs, the presidential hopeful explained that he did not belong to any oligarchic group in Honduras. He remarked that Liberals will accept a long-nose candidate. [sentence as heard] Carlos Montoya told his followers that he is not subject to any pressure or to any economic pressure group. Explaining why he travels abroad so often, Montoya said: I want to break our dependency on the United States because they are mediocre allies.

The presidential hopeful came to El Progreso accompanied by a motorcade of 200 vehicles that came from different points of this sector and from San Pedro Sula. This is his first rally in El Progreso, a traditional Liberal city.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH GUATEMALA -- Yesterday afternoon Honduras and Guatemala signed the final document of their bilateral trade treaty. The treaty adds eight new export products to the 652 export items that already existed. [Excerpt] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Apr 87 p 8 PA]

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- Honduran Foreign Ministry sources confirmed yesterday that Guillermo Boquin, former Honduran ambassador to Panama, has been appointed new envoy to Guatemala replacing Nadina Lefebre. It was also announced that Roberto Suazo Tome was appointed ambassador to Paraguay and Uruguay replacing Salvador Enrique Rodesno. [Summary] [San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Mar 87 p 10 PA]

44 KG COCAINE CONFISCATED -- Officials seized more than 44 kg of cocaine, worth more than $5 million. It was found in the suitcase of a passenger who arrived at Toncontin Airport aboard a SAM [Sociedad Aeronautica de Medellin Consolidada, S.A.] airlines flight. The identity of the passenger has not been disclosed. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 87 PA]

NICARAGUA

'RADIO WAVE WAR' WAGED BY U.S., AREA COUNTRIES

PA241222 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Apr 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Colonel Leopoldo Rivas, minister of Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Service] who yesterday dedicated the telecommunications mid-level technician career, has charged that television channels 4 and 12 of El Salvador have invaded [con la invasion] Nicaragua with their transmissions, thus violating the 1982 Rio de Janeiro Treaty.

That treaty establishes that each country's stations are entitled to broadcast their signals with a certain amount of power and on an established frequency. However, Nicaragua is the only country complying with this, and its national radio and television stations do not invade other countries with their signals.

Signals from the Salvadoran television channels approximately 30 days ago entered Nicaragua with messages aimed at the Nicaraguan people. The messages were a distortion of the true Nicaraguan situation. Their objective was to make the people think that the Somozist past was better than the present and to make the people want a return to the past.

With these transmissions, the United States is trying to present every revolutionary activity carried out by the Nicaraguan people as an action against themselves and not as an effort being made to promote the revolution.

Col Rivas said the United States has big radio corporations that have broadcast stations all over the world and whose interests are against those of the Third World.

Part of the U.S. aggression, as has already been reported by the media years ago, consists of intercepting, with ships that have special equipment, all communication between officials of the revolutionary government, thus monitoring Nicaragua's social and military life.

Managua (ANN) [as published] In the mountains of Nueva Segovia, a northern Nicaragua department that borders Honduras, a peasant is turning his radio on to prepare for his day in the field. It is 0530.

The man is turning the dial while he drinks his morning coffee. He has tuned Honduras' official radio station HRN [Voz de Honduras Network] which is reporting about a "Sandinist aggression" on that country. The peasant continues turning the dial and now he has tuned in a Honduran commercial radio station that advertises cosmetics and electrical household appliances available in the stores of Tegucigalpa.

More tuning and now he is listening to the mercenaries' radio station saying that "the Christian commandos will soon defeat the Sandino-communists." He keeps on tuning and now he hears "The Voice of America" talks about "the Miskitos being persecuted" in Nicaragua's Atlantic coast.

In his rural world, the peasant perhaps cannot realize that he is the victim of a ferocious "war of ideas" being waged through radio waves that are part of the campaign the United States is waging against the Nicaraguan revolution.

In this thorougly hertz-saturated world, the "radio wave war" responds to an ideology of domination. The most dangerous weapon in this war is the direct manipulation of the minds of millions of people.

This invisible war is being waged not only against Nicaragua. In 1986, 129 international radio stations in more than 80 countries broadcast approximately 21,000 hours of radio programs in 125 languages to more than 250 million listeners throughout the world. However, the radio wave invasion of Nicaragua has taken on huge dimensions.

The psychological operations list in the guerrilla warfare manual published by the CIA for use by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries at the end of 1983 notes that "the people must be considered the main objective in a political war and must be viewed as a military target in a guerrilla-type war, because the most important part of a human being is his mind."

It is in the framework of this "political war," better known as the low intensity war, that Nicaragua is enduring a flood of radio waves from abroad after 8 years of revolution.

In his study "Electronic Penetration in the Low Intensity War: The Nicaragua Case" published in 1986, U.S. Dr Howard Frederick, from the Ohio University, said that at least 75 foreign radio stations have saturated Nicaragua's airwaves.

The report indicates that 26 of the radio stations whose waves cover Nicaragua are in Costa Rican territory, 18 in Honduras, and 4 in El Salvador. These radio stations may be commercial, state, counterrevolutionary, or U.S. Government owned, but they all coincide in delivering anti-Sandinist and pro-U.S. messages, although the nuance of the message may vary.

For example, the Costa Rican commercial radio stations are bombarding southern and central Nicaragua with the rightist values of the business sector that controls the media in that country. That sector speaks of the virtues of consumerism, something that the Nicaraguan people cannot indulge in because of the grave economic crisis and the lack of supplies that have come about precisely because of the war situation created by the United States.

The capitalist values constantly being broadcast through the commercials go hand in hand with the ideological messages and the content of news programs that inevitably defend the position of the United States and the counterrevolutionaries.

The messages have a clear effect, even if such an effect was not the objective: to present an image of a good life in the neighboring countries that can be contrasted with the needs of the Nicaraguan people. Thus, the hertz waves turn the revolution into the reason for deprivation and the counterrevolution into salvation.

Meanwhile, Voz de Honduras Network has been notorious for promoting a climate of war between that country and Nicaragua with sensationalist, biased, and often false news.

For example, last December that radio station alarmingly announced, in the midst of much border tension resulting from incursions into Nicaragua by counterrevolutionary forces quartered in Honduras, that war already had broken out between the two nations and that the Honduran people should get ready "to defend the nation's sovereignty."

The report was not only false, but it made no mention of the incursions by the counterrevolutionaries from Honduran territory or of the fact that the presence of the contras in Honduras represents a real violation of Honduran sovereignty.

In contrast to the subtle messages broadcast by the commercial radio stations, the counterrevolutionaries have three radio stations of their own, and they use them to broadcast the anti-Sandinist "hard-line."

One of these radio stations has broadcast from Honduras messages such as "once the resistance wins there will be no more shortages," "the pope is on our side in the struggle against the atheists," and "we will kill the puppets of Cuba and Moscow." The ARDE group has "Voz de Sandino" in northern Costa Rica, and counterrevolutionary Indian organizations have "Miskut" in the Honduran Mosquitia.

Meanwhile, the VOA -- official mouthpiece of the United States -- marks the pace of the radio wave war. The Marnandate II report prepared by Reaganite groups in the United States and considered as the guideline of the Republican administration, points out that "the administration has developed and strengthened the VOA realizing that it is an important and effective tool for public U.S. diplomacy that we must use broadly in the war of ideas."

The Reagan administration has allocated $2 billion to expand the VOA installations in the Caribbean basin, where Nicaragua and Cuba have been selected as the main targets.

Radio Marti broadcasts against Cuba began in 1985. That same year construction began in Cape Rojo, Puerto Rico, of a 500,000-watt broadcast station with enough power to saturate the entire Central American region.

In 1985 the Honduran Government agreed to allow the VOA to install a broadcast station in San Lorenzo, in the Gulf of Fonseca, a few kilometers from Nicaragua This station thus was added to those already established in other areas of Honduras, in El Salvador, and in Belize, all with the capability to penetrate Nicaragua.

A VOA broadcast station was installed in 1985 in northern Costa Rica, in an area occupied by the contras. That station's power is 100,000 watts. It daily broadcasts programs to Nicaragua in Spanish, Miskito, and English.

Ironically, the current radio infrastructure of Nicaragua goes back to the days of the counterinsurgency campaign carried out by the U.S. Marines and the Somozist dictatorship against the forces of General Augusto Cesar Sandino in the 1930's. Since their military activities were being obstructed by a lack of communication, the U.S. occupation forces created Radio Nacional to secure this type of assistance.

The Somozist dynasty acquired that first radio station, and during the almost half century that it lasted, the dynasty controlled another 16, which were to be controlled by the revolutionary state as of 1979 when the properties of Somoza were nationalized.

In 1981, the government created the People's Radio Broadcasting Corporation (CORADEP). Out of 49 radio stations that operate in the country, 32 of them are in private hands. The CORADEP radio stations have the main responsibility for counteracting the radio wave aggression.

As of 1985, CORADEP went on the offensive to regain the country's radio space and installed several broadcast stations in isolated regions so that the peasants could have access to their own radio stations. CORADEP also increased its English and Miskito language transmissions to the Atlantic coast people and introduced special programs such as meteorological reports and agricultural information for the peasants.

But little Nicaragua is facing an enemy that has many more and superior resources in this era of electronic communication, an enemy that wants to "conquer the hearts and the minds" of the Nicaraguans.

INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY LEADER ON PEACE PLANS

PA250206 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Dr Virgilio Godoy Reyes, president of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] has stated that the proposal for peace and democracy in Nicaragua, which was presented by seven opposition parties, has been welcomed by government and political leaders in five European countries.

Dr Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN], Erick Ramirez, of the Social Christian Party [PSC], and Dr Virgilio Godoy, of the PLI, visited five European countries. The following is Dr Virgilio Godoy's report:

[Begin recording] [Godoy] A multiparty commission recently returned from Europe. We traveled to officially represent the eight [as heard] parties' nine-point proposal, which is already known in our country. The trip included five European countries: Belgium, England, Austria, the FRG, and France. We are quite satisfied with the tour, because the document was welcomed with evident willingness and interest by all the sectors that had direct knowledge of the matter. In other words, the document was presented to international political organizations such as the Socialist International, Liberal International, Christian Democratic International, and International Democratic Union.

In addition, we established contacts with top-level officials and parliamentary members of the five countries' governments. We also established contacts with other organizations, such as the European Parliament, the EEC, and the large labor unions with headquarters in Belgium -- such as the ICFTU and the WFTU. Referring to the strictly political sector, we also talked with members of Christian Democratic, Liberal, Social Democratic, Socialist, and Conservative Parties in five countries. In every case we actively exchanged viewpoints, and we clearly ascertained their interest in the proposal presented here in early February.

The other thing that we tried to do, even though it was not an essential part of our presence in Europe, was to urge the European parliamentary members to send as many representatives as they could -- based on the quota established by the IPU -- to the conference to begin in Managua next Monday.

[Reporter] Doctor, what did the PLI discuss with the Liberal International members?

[Godoy] We discussed exactly what I have said, because it was not exclusively a PLI mission. We formed a tripartite commission, which includes a representative of the PCDN, the PSC, and myself on behalf of the PLI. Consequently, the commission did not seek to publicize any given party's image. Instead, we went to present the nine-point plan, which was issued by the seven parties as an alternative for peace and independent development in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Doctor, would you please talk about the PLI's activities? Has the party prepared anything for 1 May?

[Godoy] We usually hold a meeting in Managua despite the prevailing precarious conditions. However, on this occasion we have prepared five additional activities in different parts of the country. This is our contribution to the 1 May celebrations. One activity will be carried out in Zone 1, in a semirural northern community; another activity will be carried out near Boaco.

Another activity will be carried out in the country's western sector; and another one will be carried out in Region 6. Thus, we will not try to mobilize people toward Managua; instead, we will concentrate our meager resources to carry out the celebrations in rural communities. This way no one will have to travel long distances, as most governments make people do to attend their rallies. The government uses state-owned vehicles and holds large rallies with government employees.

[Reporter] Doctor, what about the rumor of a relation between the nine-point document presented by the political opposition parties and the Costa Rican president's peace plan? What is your opinion on this?

[Godoy] We have certainly heard some rumors about this. I think that these rumors are unjustified even though there are similarities between some points in the Costa Rican president's proposal and the seven parties' proposal -- particularly concerning a cease-fire general amnesty, the need for free and honest elections, and democratization. However, there is no relation despite these similarities. Moreover, the seven parties' plan predates the Arias plan. Of course, we are pleased that those similarities exist because it means that our concern is shared by others beyond our borders.

Nevertheless, it is appropriate to mention that President Arias' plan is a proposal that seeks to solve the overall crisis in Central America, while the seven parties' plan is a proposal to solve only the crisis in Nicaragua. Therefore, we could say that the plans were issued on a different level. The same thing could be said about Contadora, which has its own proposal to solve the Central American conflict, but we think that this is on a higher level because it is a Latin American solution. This is followed by the Arias plan, which is a Central American proposal issued within the region. Then we have the seven parties' proposal, which was issued within Nicaragua for Nicaragua. These plans are not incompatible even though they are not exactly alike. Anyway, each of these plans shows the interest in solving the problems that have led to the conflict prevailing in the region as a whole, and in Nicaragua in particular. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST

PA232118 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 Apr 87

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] It was announced today in Managua that the Nicaraguan and Ivorian Governments have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has issued a report stating that this decision is to develop cooperation and strengthen the ties of friendship that exist between the two nations. The report also states that the two countries will duly designate their respective ambassadors.

PAYMENT TO SPANIARDS FOR EXPROPRIATIONS PLANNED

PA250330 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] The Spanish Council of Ministers has decided to send to the Congress a Cuban-Spanish agreement on indemnity to Spanish nationals whose properties were nationalized in Cuba since 1959. The agreement was reached during the visit to Cuba by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. It states that Havana is to pay 55 percent of the expropriated goods based on value of money in 1959. According to the report, Cuba is to pay a total of $40 million. Cuba will pay this amount in cash or in goods.

FINAL STATEMENTS, REVIEW OF GROUP OF 77 CONFERENCE

SRV Delegate Addresses Group

OW251726 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25 -- "To unravel economic difficulties being encountered by developing countries, there must be a basic and all-embracing solution," said Vu Xuan Ang, vice-minister for foreign affairs and head of the Vietnamese delegation to the "Group of 77" conference held in Havana (Cuba) recently.

He acclaimed Cuban President Fidel Castro's viewpoints expounded in his opening speech, as an "important basis for the conference's discussions aimed at reaching a comprehensive solution to [word indistinct] questions relating to the North-(?South) relations."

Vu Xuan Ang said: "Realities have proved that as long as developing countries are still dependent on their economic ties with developed countries, they cannot develop their economy healthily.... The most pressing problem being faced by almost all developing countries is to define a judicious strategy of economic development so as to gradually build their independent and sovereign economies."

Referring to developing countries' foreign debts, he said:

"It is necessary to find a basic and comprehensive solution based on the principle of mutual responsibility between debtors and creditors to ensure the right of the developing countries to development."

"One of the preconditions for development," he said, "is peace, security and stability." He stressed that, to this effort, concerted actions should be taken to step up the struggle against the nuclear arms race, for peace and security the world over.

Minister Presides at Close

FL271928 Havana Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] More than 600 delegates from more than 100 countries have agreed in describing the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 as a victory for the so-called Third World's joint actions in the struggle for a new international economc order. During the simple ceremony to mark the end of the meeting, Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said:

[Begin recording] This unity and cohesion is important because it is precisely here where our negotiating strength and power lies. Even though the preparatory work for the conference, the main objective of this meeting, has concluded, the more complex activity is still ahead and will start the day the UNCTAD conference begins. This conference will be influenced by the results of our work prior to the conference and by our contribution toward the creation of an atmosphere that will favor negotiations and guarantee the achievement of specific results and agreements. [end recording]

In conclusion, Minister Cabrisas, host and president of the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 said:

[Begin recording] Do not forget that this country that offered you its hospitality will always be willing to work at your side to fulfill the aspirations of our peoples, and it will play the role of a watchful defender of the cohesion, unity, and success of the Group of 77. [end recording]

Foreign Debt Declaration

PA271537 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0001 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Havana, 26 Apr (EFE) -- The "Group of 77," which includes the 123 poorest countries of the world [as received], warned that unless corrective measures are adopted to resolve the foreign debt problem, developing nations will limit "the transfer of resources to industrialized countries."

The group's technical committee drafted a report -- approved by the sixth ministerial meeting, which closed early this morning in Havana -- stating that the policy followed by the IMF and the World Bank is incorrect.

The meeting in the Cuban capital worked for a week to achieve a unified position of the Third World to negotiate a solution with the industrialized countries to the world economic crisis and to achieve better terms of exchange for developing nations.

The 32-page document says unless "indispensable agreements" are established, the Third World will face an "extremely grave situation that forces it to limit transfers of resources to industrialized countries to prevent more social and political instability."

The technical committee's document stresses that "more than 4 years after the emergence of the crisis, the focus of the creditor developing countries regarding the debt problems continues to be unilateral, partial, and unfair."

According to the "Group of 77," which prepared in Havana for the Seventh UNCTAD meeting to take place in Geneva in July, the commercial, financial, and monetary policies the IMF and World Bank recommend to developing nations are incoherent.

The group said that the policies are designed "exclusively" to protect the creditors' interests and it "mistakenly" assumes that the debt crisis is the result of deficient actions [gestion] by the debtor countries." [quotation marks as received]

The report adds: "Instead of furnishing debtor countries with sufficient resources to reinforce and restructure their production capacity, the policies have exerted great pressure on those countries' economies to generate a transfer of resources abroad."

According to the report, the grace and consolidation periods and the maturities of the debt have continued to be short, and the new financial resources that have been furnished "have sufficed only to ensure that the debtor countries pay their interest on time."

The poor countries said that payment conditions are "rigid and inadequate." They believe that unless development resumes, debtors will not be able to meet their ob[illegible]ions in the long run.

"The inadequacy and insufficiency of recent initiatives, including the Baker Plan, is evident from every angle," the document adds.

Measures designed to reactivate the world economy as a whole and coordinated action with the participation of the developing countries, not only of the "Group of Five" were demanded.

It is a matter of "correcting the current asymetry" of the international monetary system, reducing the real types of interest, increasing the prices of basic products, increasing liquidity, improving access to markets, and guaranteeing the instability [as received] of the kinds of exchange." [quotation marks as received]

According to the "Group of 77," financing conditions tend to diminish [erosionar] the independence and sovereignty of those countries in the election of their development priorities and of their social and political systems." [quotation marks as received]

Likewise, it is believed there cannot be expansion without new resources; and without new resources it will be impossible to create "the dynamic climate necessary to stimulate investments, which is the only road to growth."

The sixth ministerial meeting of the "Group of 77" also approved the "Havana Declaration," which emphasizes the seriousness of the Third World's economic crisis, and [contains] various political resolutions against blockades against Cuba, Nicaragua, and Libya. It condemns South African "apartheid" and supports the Palestinian cause.

ARMS RACE, CENTRAL AMERICA MAIN ISSUES FOR IPU

PA251220 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Report by Barbara Betancur]

[Text] Yes, my friends, that IPU meeting, which is expected to attract delegations from more than 100 countries, will start next Monday, that is, on 27 April in Managua, Nicaragua. It will last all week and will end on 2 May.

Before continuing this report, I wish to point something out that I believe is important: Since this meeting will take place in Nicaragua, it could indicate the solidarity that should be received by this Central American nation, which is a victim like no other nation in the region of U.S. aggressive and meddlesome policy.

The delegation of our country to the 77th IPU Conference will be headed by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. We met with him before he traveled to Managua:

[Begin Aguirre recording] We are going there to cooperate with all progressive and democratic forces; we will be seeking solutions with the consensus of all. [end recording]

As is customary in this kind of meeting, two or three topics will be discussed. One of them is always the economic issue; the other is a complementary issue that must be approved by conference participants. In other words, this is decided at the moment when the order of the day is approved.

On this occasion, among other aspects, the international economic reality and the Middle East crisis will be discussed. However, the Cuban delegation has specific interests in mind:

[Begin Aguirre recording] We are more interested in two issues, because they are problems closer to us. First, we want this meeting to clearly and categorically express support for peace and to criticize the arms race. We want it to express support for all measures such as the one proposed by the USSR to eliminate nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, which are mass exterminators. We want to achieve this by the year 2000.

There is another topic that we will try to have approved: a motion, I mean a point to discuss the Central American situation, specifically, the aggression and armed intervention threats by the United States against Nicaragua. We advocate a political negotiated solution that respects Nicaragua's sovereignty, as well as the sovereignty of all other Latin American peoples; we are against armed interventions as a way to resolve problems. Each people should be allowed to decide how to organize their lives and resolve their problems.

Cuba, as is known, defined its position to advocate a political resolution a long time ago. That is why it supports the efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups. There has been no practical solution yet because the United States is opposed to it. That country is advocating a different solution; it is advocating an armed interventionist action against Nicaragua. [end recording]

Aguirre Departs For Meeting

FL241703 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] A delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Government headed by its Vice President Severo Aguirre del Cristo, has departed for Nicaragua to participate in the 77th IPU Conference. Before leaving the Jose Marti Airport, Aguirre said:

Our delegation will work for the approval of subjects related to world peace and especially, for the peaceful solution of the Central American conflict based on the efforts made by the Contadora and Support Groups and for the unification of all democratic forces for the overall success of the conference. This important meeting will be held between 27 April and 2 May.

PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO EULOGIZES BLAS ROCA

PA270220 Havana International Service in Spanish 2312 GMT 26 Apr 87

[President Fidel Castro eulogy for Blas Roca at the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana on 26 Apr -- recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens:

An exceptional man who had singular virtues and an extraordinary talent has passed away. He was an exemplary revolutionary who dedicated his life to the humble people's cause; he was a teacher and guide of Communists for over half a century; and he was a stalwart fighter who led the first Marxist-Leninist party in Cuba for over 3 decades.

This man was born in Manzanillo on 24 July 1908 into a modest family; the name they welcomed him into the world with was Francisco Calderio. No one could foresee then the outstanding revolutionary role that he would play under the name of Blas Roca that is now so dear and familiar to us. He learned at an early age about the deprivations and adversities that society had in store for the families in that economic and social class. He learned to read and write in his home town, and at an early age he demonstrated exceptional intelligence and an insatiable thirst for knowledge and self-improvement. He became a teacher through his own efforts and, to quote Jose Marti: This makes you a creator.

Nevertheless, Blas Roca could not find a job in any of the few schools of the neocolony. Following the family tradition, he took up the modest job of a shoemaker. Harsh work is the best school for men and revolutionaries. Blas was still quite young during the difficult decade of the 1920's, when the Cuban workers waged difficult class struggles under the influence of the Great October Socialist Revolution amidst a desolate economic crisis.

Yet, he joined the ranks of workers and Communists in Manzanillo -- a city of strong spirit and deeply rooted revolutionary traditions.

In 1929, he was elected secretary general of the Shoemakers Union in Manzanillo. That same year, he joined the party that was recently created by Balino and Mella. His courageous decision occurred at a particularly difficult time marked by ferocious repression against the people. Anyone who was a Communist at that time and in that society had to take many risks and adopt the most heroic political position. His exceptional conditions as a fighter determined his election -- within a year -- as secretary of the committee of the party in Manzanillo and secretary general of the local labor federation. He was barely 21 years old and was already the most important Communist and labor leader in the courageous eastern province.

Later, when he was barely 25 years old, his stature attained a special dimension during the difficult days of struggle against Machado. He led the worker and popular battles in his province that led to the historic general strike in August 1933. He also led the party when it issued the rallying cry to struggle for a government of workers and peasants in the Magay Central. This was a dream at that time, but it was also a brilliant premonition. The seeds were sown in Manzanillo and 33 years later they would bear fruit in a tenacious and invincible solidarity with the expedition members who arrived in the Granma.

Blas' rise to the party's higher posts was quick. Martinez-Illena was currently the highest leader of the Cuban Communists, and his sleepless eyes quickly saw the young revolutionary fighter's brilliant attributes. That same year -- 1933 -- Roca was transferred and made responsible for the party's leadership in the capital of the Republic. He was also asked to take over the weekly publication BANDERA ROJA, the party's main publication. Shortly afterwards, the party's directorate appointed him secretary general of the Central Committee. He was confirmed in the post during the second congress in 1934.

Francisco Calderio, the humble boy from Manzanillo, thus became leader of the Cuban Communists' party when he was 26 years old. A new dictatorship prevailed in our country at the time, sponsored by Yankee imperialism, and a revolutionary withdrawal was currently underway. This continued during the extremely difficult international period that preceded World War II, which was unleashed by fascism. The brutal crushing of the general strike in March 1935, and the severe blow received by the Cuban labor and revolutionary movement made it necessary for the Communist Party to face extremely complex and difficult problems. Blas rebuilt what the opposition had destroyed, with the serene and firm attitude that had always characterized his party's convictions. He consolidated the organization and continued the struggle to recover the freedoms that had been taken away from the people. He went to the Soviet Union that same year and presided over the Cuban delegation to the 7th International Communist Congress. He was appointed member of the Executive Council.

Already his stature reached beyond the nation and began to make itself internationally well known. Under his firm leadership, the party fully fulfilled its internationalist duty with the Spanish Republic through its formidable solidarity campaign directed by the Communists as best seen through the sending of nearly 1,000 combatants to international brigades. In the complex period of 1938-1944, when the antifascist struggle became the center of the international revolutionary movement, the party, led by Blas, who remained faithful to its principles, offered its firm and determined support for this struggle.

At home, thanks to the party's unselfish effort, the labor movement became considerably stronger. The Confederation of Cuban Workers [Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba] was created. Brilliant leaders like Lazaro Pena, Jesus Menendez, and others emerged under the wise leadership and instruction of Blas Roca. The labor class attained considerable social and political progress. Great was the party's contribution to the 1940 constitutional process in that historical period. The work carried out by the small group of communist delegates headed by Roca contributed particularly toward including numerous progressive and advanced provisions in the 1940 Constitution.

Between 1940 and 10 March 1952, Roca was a representative to the chamber. There, he struggled tenaciously for the interests of workers, peasants, and the people in general. As we have said at other times, there was no progressive law or measure to benefit the workers or the people during this period in which Blas and the Communists did not participate and struggle for.

Few revolutionaries in our homeland's history have been the object of so much slander and so many treacherous campaigns as Comrade Roca was. The bourgeoisie, neocolonialists, exploiters, and all kinds of reactionaries paid to him their homage of their bitterest hatred. Those base campaigns, however, could not darken the image of his upright personality. He was a fighter, a politician, and an intellectual of unique human condition, all of them embodied in his personality. Later, life gave us the opportunity of becoming more acquainted with him. As we once said, Blas was, is, and always will be one of the noblest, most human, and most generous men we have ever met.

With the coup of 10 March 1952 and the overwhelming revolutionary response of 26 July 1953, a new stage in our people's struggle would start. The struggle would demand enormous sacrifice and heroism. In this long process, Blas' party and we, the founders of the 26 July movement, would always maintain friendly relations. Our admiration for the Cuban Communists' unselfish, tenacious, and courageous struggle became a part of our political education. Out of the libraries and bookstores of the People's Socialist Party emerged the books that fed, enriched, and strengthened our revolutionary ideas. Our strategies were not always similar. But our historical objectives were common to each other while we went our own ways.

With justice and gratefulness, we today evoke the difficult days that followed Granma's landing, when the Cuban Communists led by Blas demanded that opposition parties take forceful political actions and exert pressure to prevent the extermination of the revolutionaries, who were at the time forced to confront the hard initial setbacks. In the subsequent national liberation war and the clandestine struggle, unselfish communist youths and workers fought beside us. They had been shaped by principles taught by Blas. Our cooperation continued in victory and when anticommunism became the instrument par excellence of domestic reaction and Yankee imperialism, the unity of all forces became more essential than ever. The historical, political, and ideological basis had been created for this. Toward this unity, Blas made the invaluable contribution of his unselfishness and modesty.

More than 25 years had elapsed since he took over the leadership of the first Communist Party of Cuba. A deep revolutionary process had taken place in our homeland. A broad political movement backed by the people never before seen here had evolved. A new generation of revolutionary leaders had emerged. Finally, the revolutionary ideas from the time of Cespedes to Blas would become realities. This time, this unique historical opportunity would not be affected by conflicts between men and personalities. We the Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries were above vanities and base ambitions. In this, Blas' example was historical and insurmountable. Without any hesitation, he put his party and leadership, his experience and wisdom unconditionally at the service of the new revolutionary leadership. The thousands of unselfish, tenacious militants that he had shaped thus joined with the combatants of the revolutionary directorate and the 26 July Movement and formed the new party, of whose directorate he has been one of the most prestigious and respected members.

It is necessary to recall a day like this one, in June 1961. During the closure of the meeting where it was agreed to dissolve the Popular Socialist Party -- meaning the men who comprised the 16 July Movement and the revolutionary directorate -- Blas said with justifiable optimism and historical foresight: Today we join those men to comprise the integrated revolutionary forces, and to build a united party for the socialist revolution of Cuba. We will work together to learn, better comprehend, and deeply understand Marxism-Leninism. We are sure that this is the theory of a victory.

Thus they began to forge the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere. Never again would a child be born into the political and social conditions that Francisco Calderio was born 52 years before. The revolutionary forces; integration was not a step devoid of problems. Negative and harmful sectarian tendencies appeared at a given time. It is also appropriate to recall that Blas Roca was never guilty of sectarianism. His political wisdom, generosity, self-sacrifice, and modesty were absolutely incompatible with any expression of sectarianism.

Blas was a disciplined and exemplary soldier throughout 28 years of revolution. The party entrusted him with innumerable tasks in the most diverse fields, and he fulfilled them with absolute dedication and efficiency. Perhaps the most brilliant and most relevant examples of his intellectual capacity and attributes as a politician and statesman are the tasks he carried out to prepare the new Constitution of the Republic. Blas gave all his wisdom to this important document, he even gave it part of his life as a revolutionary, and he was extremely happy to see that our socialist Constitution represented his most cherished hopes and dreams as a Communist.

Blas' efforts are also evident in many other institutions, codes, and laws of the revolution. He was an example of a self-made teacher throughout his life. He was particularly touched the day he was elected member of the Politburo, when our glorious party celebrated its first congress. Blas' valuable actions are also closely linked to the creation of our government organizations. He was appointed deputy of the National Assembly in November 1976, and he became its first president 1 month later. He assumed the post with his usual dedication and brilliant actions for almost 5 years. Blas also leaves us the valuable fruit of many written works that represent a treasury of his political thoughts and an accurate analysis -- with a Marxist-Leninist viewpoint -- of problems that are particularly related to Cuban society.

In addition Blas leaves us a legacy that all the revolutionaries, particularly the present and future cadres in our country, must cherish appropriately: His example of modesty, humility, naturalness, and simplicity; his extraordinary human sensibility; his invariable efforts to help others; his characteristic attitude of teaching others by example; and the fact that he valued the revolution and the party above all.

In recent years, Comrade Blas waged a titanic struggle against the disease that afflicted him and progressively undermined his health, diminishing his capabilities. His stalwart tenaciousness prevailed despite this, and he went to his office day after day to work as many hours as possible.

He never stopped working even though he could. When he no longer thought himself able to hold a position, he humbly asked to be relieved. During his fruitful life, Blas was a worthy and staunch combatant, an example of devotion and loyalty to the interests of the people, to the Marxist-Leninist ideas, and the glorious cause of communism. He once said: If I had to define my life, I would say something very simple: It has been a battlefield. I have never stopped struggling, and I have never lost hope in the future, not even in the most unfavorable circumstances. This has been my shield and banner.

With the unique lucidity that was his during all his struggles, when his physical health began to suffer several years ago and troubled him, Comrade Blas told the party directorate that upon his death, which he pondered at the time naturally and with maturity, his body should be laid to rest, according to his own words, in the naked earth; this is to say, he should not be buried in a crypt. Our party's leadership, respecting Comrade Blas' will, has interpreted this request of his as an additional expression of his humility and modesty. Such a request involves the desire that, even after death, the genuine simplicity that marked him can still prevail. This is why a decision had been made to bury him near El Cacagual in the sacred land of his home country, to which he devoted his life.

The members of the party's directorate and his relatives will accompany his body to this place. In this place where we will leave him, according to his wish, there will only be a simple tombstone. In the physical absence of an exemplary revolutionary combatant like Blas, we must repeat Jose Marti's words: Death is not real when the lifework has been well fulfilled. On bidding Comrade Blas good bye, we want to tell him: The current and future Cuban revolutionaries and communists, under the influence and inspiration of your exceptional example, will turn your beloved ground into an impregnable bulwark of socialism and will preserve your beloved and admired name with those of the distinguished sons who forged the soul of the homeland with their actions and thoughts. We will firmly preserve your most precious legate, namely, unlimited loyalty to the working people. Your life, to the last breath, was devoted to the revolution.

Until we win, always, Comrade Blas. Homeland or death, we will win.

BRIEFS

CREDIT GRANTED VIETNAM -- Cuba has granted credit of almost $17 million to Vietnam. The objective of the loan is to promote the development of the sugar industry in that Asian nation. Raul Trujillo, first vice minister of the sugar industry told the national news agency about that agreement. Trujillo added the financial aid is chiefly earmarked to build five new sugar mills in different Vietnamese areas with the advice of Cuban experts. [Text] [Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 87 PA]

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION, REVIEWS ECONOMY

FL241523 Bridgetown CANA in English 1608 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 23, CANA -- The Trinidad and Tobago Government's large 1.5 billion dollar (1 TT dol; 27.7 cents U.S.) debt from 1986 and massive recurrent expenditure have virtually ruled out development expenditure altogether so far this year, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson said in a national broadcast last night.

Robinson, whose National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) came to power in general elections last December, was updating the country on the serious financial difficulties facing the oil-based economy.

Following is a partial text of the address by Robinson, who is also minister of finance:

Towards the end of December, you received the report of the team that surveyed the state of the nation's finances. And at the end of January, you heard the budget speech which I delivered in parliament.

Both the report and the budget speech were intended to present you with the facts concerning the critical state of the nation's finances and of the national economy.

Since then, I have myself met and spoken to several groups, including representatives of a number of trade unions and business organizations. Other ministers of government have also, on occasion, addressed community organizations and outlined the new government's policies on different subjects.

Tonight, I think it appropriate to speak, through this medium, directly to you.

Just before the Easter weekend, ministers of government met in special retreat to review once more the state of the nation and to firm up our programme for the months ahead.

Perhaps I need to remind you that our critical problem in the government's finances arises from the large outstanding debt of over 1.5 billion dollars (one TT dollar; 27.7 U.S. cents) from 1986, as well as the size of the recurrent expenditure outlay, both of which combine to make it extremely difficult to find any funds at all for development expenditure.

In the fiscal operations of the government for the first quarter of 1987, from January to 31st March, there was a current account deficit of 75.1 million. There was an overall financing surplus of 292.8 million dollars, due to loan receipts amounting to 324 million dollars, 173.7 million dollars of which was raised in Japan and 150.8 million dollars on the local market.

Over the same period, January to March, there was a revenue shortfall of 165.8 million dollars or 13.3 per cent in recurrent revenue collections.

Projected revenue from oil companies for the first quarter of 1987 was 392 million dollars. Actual revenue was 360 million dollars. Projected revenue from non-oil companies was 72 million dollars. Actual revenue was 52.6 million dollars. Projected revenue from individuals was 289.4 million dollars. Actual revenue was 212 million dollars.

The result of this shortfall and the need to meet outstanding commitments has meant that the government was unable to finance its recurrent expenditure to the tune of 251 million dollars or by 19.5 per cent. The full request by ministries for releases for funding during this period could not, therefore, be met.

The overall revenue picture remains grim. Oil prices have not firmed up to the extent that we had hoped, and a further weakening of prices can reasonably be expected in the summer months, after the slackening of the traditional winter demand.

It is against this background that hard decisions had to be taken and will have to be taken in the near future. If we shrink from taking such decisions we are lost. You know the ship of state was in serious trouble and you elected a new government to save it.

I myself emphasized to you on several occasions during the election period that we of the National Alliance for Reconstruction were on nothing short of a rescue mission.

Our first task was to form the government and to take emergency action. The emergency action we have taken so far has kept the ship afloat. However, we must now work even harder to make it serviceable and ship-shape.

We are fully conscious that the government cannot achieve this task alone. In the task before us, the government and you the people are partners. It is in recognition of this fact that we have committed ourselves to open govenrment, to a process of consultation and to decentralisation of decision-making.

This is the path we shall resolutely pursue in accordance with our 1986 election's manifesto. In the past few weeks, we have been engaged in putting the necessary structures into place for a more adequate flow of information to you as well as for consultation on a much wider scale.

The Information Division of the government has now been strengthened. The proposed National Planning Commission is being consulted and will soon meet. Apart from a number of government ministers, the commission will consist of representatives of labour, of the business community, including the small business sector, representatives from local government, the Central Bank, the National Energy Corporation from Tobago.

To deepen the process of consultation and in our determination to achieve greater collaboration between employer and labour, as well as to forge a social compact; which will embrace wages, prices, profits and employment, the new government is in the process of establishing a joint consultative council. The council will be an important forum in which government, the labour movement and all sectoral interest groups can meet to discuss matters related to economic stability and growth, wages, profits, prices and measures to restrain retrenchment and for the creation of jobs...

...Steps are in train to set up the proposed Joint Parliamentary Committee on Banking and Finance and a Tax Performance Committee to review the tax structure to make it more responsive to developmental needs.

While structures ae being put into place and the re-organization and re-orientation of the public service is being pursued, it is incumbent on us to take steps to avert economic contraction and decline and the growing unemployment levels.

Unemployment which had reached the high level of 17 per cent last year has reached an even high level in 1987.

The new government places a high priority on self-help programmes and on initiative, creativity and enterprise. A National Self-Help Commission has been established with wide geographical representation and has already commenced, in partnership with local communities, a number of self-help projects. Additional stimulus will be given to the co-operative movement and small business concerns.

The Ministry of Works, Settlements and Infrastructure has launched its settlements programme, in which it is projected that 10,000 housing lots, as well as industrial, agricultural and recreational allotments, will be made available on one hundred sites spread throughout the country by the end of 1988.

Apart from providing homes for the homeless and land for the landless, a key objective is creation of jobs through the mobilization of the construction sector.

As a further stimulus to the construction sector and the creation of jobs, the government is at the stage of inviting tenders for the extension of the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway, from Macoya to Piarco and for the extension of the priority bus route from Tacarigua to Arima.

Agreement has been reached for the relocation of residents from Guyamare at a lower level of compensation than that previously demanded. I compliment those citizens on the new spirit that they have displayed. Operation will soon begin on their relocation to a site further west of their present holdings enabling the completion of the last phase of the Butler Highway.

You will remember that the government recently concluded a loan agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank for the construction of twenty-two primary schools of which we now await designs from the architects.

Along with housing, the construction industry and agriculture, the tourism industry has been accorded high priority by the new government, because of the potential it offers for expansion and earnings of foreign exchange.

Because of the rapid increase in cruise ships arrivals in Tobago from 36 in 1986 to 52 in 1987 and 72 projected for 1988 and increasing thereafter, it has been found necessary to provide berthing space and other amenities for the vessels in the Scarborough Harbour.

Plans are also on the drawing board for the development of Piarco Airport and the extension of the runway at Crown point. The Piarco development will include an industrial port, including a free port zone with extension of the parking area at the terminal.

It must be understood that all these projects are being undertaken in a situation of acute financial stringency. However, the government considers these projects essential if the economic downturn is to be arrested and the economy turned around on a path of growth and development.

As a result of the meeting of ministers at the Easter retreat at Bon Accord House in Pointe-a-Pierre, fourteen additional projects were identified, for which design work has already been completed and on which a start will be made in the remaining period of a 1987....

...While the projects relating to the construction of schools, and for which there is an IADB loan, will have to put out for international tendering, the fourteen I have just enumerated will be restricted to local contractors, in pursuance of the government's aim to stimulate the revival of the local construction industry as a key element in the economic recovery programme.

The projects will be undertaken on the design/construct/finance model, in which the contractor comes with a total package, including financing.

As far as possible, domestic financial resources will be utilized for these projects. Local financial institutions, including banks and insurance companies have already been involved in discussions toward this end...

What we are seeking to do is to mobilize local capital, local skills and resources for these projects, so as to promote internally-propelled economic growth.

...In devising strategies and formulating projects for lifting the economy out of its present slump, the government has been seeking and will intensify its efforts to involve sectors of the national community. The new government is firmly of the view that we are all partners in national development.

Our aim is to provide the kind of climate in which trade unions, the business community, the financial sector, farmers, small business, technicians, craftsmen, every individual however big, however small, see themselves as partners with government in the development of our nation. This is our election's pledge reflected in our manifesto and we intend to implement it.

Both private enterprise and labour must be prepared to devise co-operative structures and imaginative schemes for investment, including the financing of new development projects, new job-creating ideas, new ideas for export development.

The government, on its part, through its Programme of Incentives and Rewards will seek to assist in the process.

...Let us never forget that there are resources other than material resources and sources of satisfaction other than material ones. There are resources of the mind and of the spirit. These we are now called upon as a nation to mobilise to the fullest.

We did so even for a brief period on clean-up day. From this experience we learnt an important lesson from working towards a common goal. We must now apply the experience to a deeper area of national life. This is the significance of calling upon you in the year of our twenty-fifth (independence) anniversary to dedicate ourselves to the recognition and promotion of our human dignity as individuals and as a nation.

It is ideas such as these that are at the centre of nation-building. It was the desire for recognition of their human dignity that was the motivating force in the struggle of our forefathers for emancipation from slavery: for the abolition of indenture and the plantation system, for the abolition of colonialism, and in the struggle for self-government and independence. It is this desire for the recognition of our human dignity that is at the centre of the aspiration of our people at all races, all classes and all religions to be regarded as equals in the national community.

In this year of our twenty-fifth anniversary as a nation, we can have no higher resolve than to dedicate ourselves to the recognition and promotion of our human dignity as individuals and as a people.

It is for this reason that the cabinet has decided that human dignity must be recognized not as an isolated event, but as the commencement of an epoch.

The common thread running through all government programmes for the rest of the year will be the recognition and promotion of the human dignity of our people.

The response from all our religious denominations to our decision to make human dignity a major theme has been one of complete endorsement and I call up the national community, our clubs, societies, cultural groups, artistes, sporting and youth organizations to project this theme in every way and particularly on national occasions such as Emancipation Day, Independence Day, and Republic Day. Let us reflect the theme in renewed appreciation and respect for one another on the roads, at work and at play.

As you will have heard, the celebrated Nobel Peace Prize winner, Archbishop Tutu, Archbishop of Capetown, outstanding religious leader in the struggle for human dignity in South Africa will visit Trinidad and Tobago at the invitation of the Anglican community.

The government has agreed to sponsor a cultural programme on the occasion of the visit. The programme will be dedicated to the struggle for human dignity in South Africa and will be open to attendance by all.

I call upon you to make the occasion a demonstration of national unity in massive identification with the oppressed people of South Africa in their struggle for recognition of their human dignity in the land of their birth. Details of the programme will be given to you at a later date.

Here at home we have started preparatory work on our programme to bring the mentally ill and those who roam the streets without any fixed place of abode within community care. This will have to be a very carefully planned programme.

As soon as preparations have reached a sufficiently advanced stage you will be notified and informed regarding what is expected of you. In this enterprise we will seek the voluntary assistance of religious organizations and social workers to supplement the resources of the state. Together with our campaign against the drug trade and drug abuse this will pose one of our major tests as a people and as a nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are only some of the numerous matters that have been demanding our time and energies in the short four months we have been in office. Let me emphasize -- four months not four years. We have barely begun our five-year term.

Remember, a previous government has been in power for thirty years with results you have come to know only too well. The task before our young nation is monumental.

Give your new government a chance. Give yourselves a chance. We are making progress. More and more you will see the shape of things to come. The foundations are being laid. They must be built on rock not on sand.

I have spoken of our programmes in agriculture, in industry, in tourism, our plans for a new tax incentive regime in respect of all of which preparatory work is being done. The picture will progressively unfold.

BAN LIFTED AGAINST BARBADIAN POLITICAL ACTIVIST

FL220312 Bridgetown CANA in English 2312 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 21, CANA - The Trinidad and Tobago Government has lifted a 20-year entry ban against left-wing Barbadian political activist and attorney-at-law, Robert (Bobby) Clarke.

Clarke said that he received a letter from Trinidad and Tobago's new Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday last month, officially notifying him that the ban, imposed in July 1967, had been lifted by the administration in Port of Spain.

Clarke said that he spent the Easter weekend with friends in Trinidad and Tobago -- the first time he was allowed free entry into that island in more than 20 years.

Clarke welcomed the lifting of the ban in a statement issued here today, expressing his appreciation to the new Trinidad and Tobago Government, and specifically, to Panday.

He also called for the removal of similar bans against other Caribbean citizens by some countries in the region and urged freedom of movement of Caribbean peoples among the islands of the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

Clarke said that the reasons for his being denied entry into Trinidad and Tobago in the past have never been published and suggested that they should now be stated.

Clarke was one of the leaders of the Black Power Movement in the Caribbean in the late 1960's and the early 1970's and headed an organisation called the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) here.

He has kept a relatively low political profile in recent years, dedicating much of his time to his law practice and a tiny trade union called the Barbados Industrial and General Workers Union (BIGWU).

Clarke has, at various times in the past, been denied entry into Dominica, St Vincent, and Antigua, in addition to Trinidad and Tobago.

NATION'S AIRLINE SETS UP DRUG TASK FORCE

FL241646 Bridgetown CANA in English 1543 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 23, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago's national airline, BWIA, has set up a task force to recommend ways to curb the use of its aircraft for drug smuggling, Managing Director Ian Bertrand has announced.

We are being used unwittingly as a transport medium for legal drugs moving primarily into North America, Bertrand told a meeting on the subject.

BWIA met with Industry Minister Ken Gordon to establish the new task force, headed by Assistant Police Commissioner (Crime), Malcolm Kingston, and including representatives from customs and immigration, the airports authority and the Industry Ministry.

The group will meet all next week to put together proposals for submission to cabinet and is also expected to seek the cooperation of Caribbean airport authorities in the anti-trafficking campaign.

Bertrand outlined plans by the airline to stem the use of BWIA by drug smugglers who he said had recently landed the carrier in trouble at Kennedy Airport, New York, and Pearson International, Toronto.

He said there were incidents of drugs being loaded onto the airline's planes at Piarco Airport here, as well as at intransit points in the Caribbean and said that BWIA's Kingston/San Juan Route had been the subject of intense scrutiny by the Puerto Rican authorities seeking out illegal drugs coming from Jamaica.

He suggested Caribbean airports work together to reduce the incidence of drug abuse in collaboration with American authorities.

Senator Gordon told the meeting a request had been made to the United States and British overseas missions sited here for sniffer dogs and handlers to detect drugs on aircraft.

BWIA's stepped up drug-fighting activity comes two months after publication of a report on the local drug trade which linked customs officers and taxi drivers at the airport, police officers and magistrates with the drug trade.

They have all been suspended from duty in the wake of govenment's announced intention to combat the illicit trade believed to originate essentially in South America, with the narcotics bound mostly for the United States, via the Caribbean.